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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46.654

By John Pilger

The riddle of Bondi Beach

G2 with European weather



Michael Holroyd defends biografiends

Your life in their hands

G2 Arts pages 8/9



Education

Tories about face on ethnic monitoring

G2 pages 10/11

Parents could face new restrictions on smacking children

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

PARENTS could face new limits on the physical punishment they can mete out to their children after a 12-year-old boy beaten with a garden cane was given the right yesterday to pursue his case in Europe.

The European Court of Human Rights could lay down parameters for the circumstances in which corporal punishment would be permitted.

This would be likely to include the degree of force, the length of time the punishment persisted, and other relevant factors such as whether

the child's mother supported the punishment.

But experts on human rights law said the case, which might take two years to hear, was most unlikely to result in a complete ban on parental smacking.

The 12-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, won the first stage of his case yesterday to challenge parents' rights to discipline children by beating them.

The European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled admissible a claim by the boy that a thrashing by his stepfather after he threatened a sibling with a kitchen knife violated his human rights. The commission will now go on to con-

sider the merits of the boy's case, which could eventually reach the European Court of Human Rights and force the Government to change the law to limit parents' rights to use corporal punishment.

But Lord Lester QC, a leading veteran of Strasbourg cases who has acted for applicants in two other corporal punishment cases, thought the Government would probably win the case. The court would certainly not outlaw parental smacking altogether, he said.

The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, said last night: "This is only a decision on the admissibility of the complaint. We await the court's judgment on the mer-

its of the case. English law is clear and coincides with common sense. Parents are allowed to use corporal punishment, but only to the extent of 'reasonable chastisement'. The government could not support a blanket ban on parental smacking."

Allan Levy QC, counsel for the boy, whose mother claims he has been "out of control since the age of two," argued that his treatment amounted to "inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment," contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The incident, which happened in February 1993, came to light when the boy's brother told teachers that the

nine-year-old was being beaten by his stepfather. Social services were alerted and the stepfather was subsequently tried for assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Medical evidence was given that the boy had a series of welts on his legs and bottom which had been inflicted over a period of a week.

The judge told the jury that it was "a perfectly good defence that the alleged assault was merely the correction of a child by its parent... provided the correction be moderate in the manner, the instrument and the quantity of it." The jury acquitted the stepfather.

Mr Levy said the "reasonable chastisement" defence

did not apply in any other type of case. He argued that children suffered discrimination compared with adults in protection against physical violence.

The Government argued that the state had no responsibility for the behaviour of the stepfather, and that unreasonable chastisement was covered by the civil and criminal law.

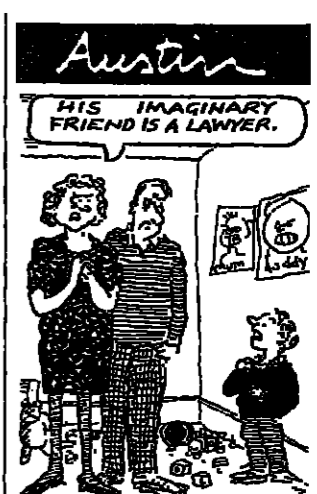
The case is likely to go to the Court of Human Rights for a final ruling, but the process could take up to two years.

Recent research supported by the Department of Health, which studied 400 families, found that 91 per cent of children had been hit, 77 per cent

in the previous year. More than one in three four-year-olds and more than one in four seven-year-olds were hit more often than once a week.

The NSPCC, one of more than 60 organisations supporting a ban on corporal punishment, welcomed yesterday's decision and urged the Government to try to reach a settlement. "The UK voluntarily ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. This obliges the government to protect children for all forms of violence while in the care of parents or others."

"The case for law reform is clear. There is no consensus about what the term 'smacking' means."



Saddam victory humbles Clinton

Chris Nurtall in Salahuddin and Ian Black in London

KURDISH forces backed by Iraq took almost total control of Kurdistan last night, handing President Saddam Hussein a proxy victory and the West its most serious strategic reverse in the region since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

As President Clinton admitted there was little the United States could do to help, guerrilla fighters of the Baghdad-backed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) captured the key city of Sulaymaniyah from their longtime rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and sent thousands of refugees pouring towards the border with Iran.

The capture of Sulaymaniyah, the region's largest city, established effective Iraqi control of 80 per cent of Kurdistan. It spelled an end to the US and British-backed humanitarian Operation Provide Comfort in the northern "safe haven" set up in 1991 after the Gulf war.

Although there were no signs of Iraqi troops or armour involved in the fighting, the swift defeat of the PUK exposed the hollowess of the Western strategy of containing President Saddam, including last week's cruise missile attacks in the south.

With the balance of power radically changed — and Turkey establishing a security zone on its border — Ahmed

Chalabi, the executive president of the Western-backed Iraqi opposition, the Iraqi National Congress (INC), warned that Iraq might now respond to calls for intervention by the PUK and begin a proxy war.

"This is a victory for Saddam," he said. "He has won a battle but not the war. This means that Saddam is back in effective control of the whole area."

As the drama unfolded, Iran warned that 500,000 Kurds had been made homeless or were on the run, and appealed for international KDP aid to deal with the emergency.

In the streets of the mountain resort of Salahuddin, gunfire crackled and tracer bullets filled the air as KDP fighters celebrated the capture of Sulaymaniyah.

Iraqi opposition forces have been stressing for days the significant presence of Iraqi secret police in Kurdistan, despite the regular Iraqi military forces after the capture of Irbil on August 31.

"Saddam's security forces will now move in after the KDP and there will be a hunt for opposition people," Mr Chalabi said. "The stage is set for a political deal between the KDP — which now controls all major cities in Kurdistan — and Saddam."

The PUK had warned that Sulaymaniyah, 30 miles from the Iranian border, was in danger of collapse and appealed to the US to help it against the KDP.

A United Nations refugee official in Geneva said 8,000 to 10,000 people were reported to have fled Sulaymaniyah yesterday. UN officials said Iran was bracing for a vast wave of refugees.

The KDP seized the international spotlight when, helped by President Saddam, the militia captured Irbil from the PUK. The US retaliated by firing 44 cruise missiles on southern Iraq.

Despite Mr Clinton's promises "to help anybody that needs to be out of Iraq", US officials confirmed opposition claims that 98 Iraqi defectors and INC supporters were executed in Irbil early last week, apparently on suspicion of links to the CIA.

Iraq crisis, page 7



Foster's vision: a tower to trump the rest of the city

James Meikle, Community Affairs Editor

IT WILL be the ultimate in social climbing — the 1,200 ft high home which everyone can see but where a helicopter is needed to peer into the windows.

Those who believe the sky is the limit and money no object will soon be competing for a new top 40 as one of a select band of owners of multi-million pound apartments in the tall-fin tops of Europe's biggest building.

Floors 75 to 87 of the London Millennium Tower will become among the most exclusive addresses in Europe if plans outlined yesterday by the architect, Sir Norman Foster, win approval.

But hopes that the residents will move into the two mini-towers, one higher than the other, in 2001, are likely to be dashed even if the Corporation of London allows the 92-storey building.

It will house scores of offices, up to seven trading floors, restaurants and "gardens in the sky", including one 1,000 ft above

street level, where the public will also be allowed on to a viewing gallery.

The Government seems certain to order an inquiry, thus delaying the timetable for the tower, which will cost £400 million in building expenses alone, and is nearly 1,265 ft high, with a 162 ft mast.

It will house about 8,000 office workers — but who wants to live so high up? Quite a lot of people, according to Nick Tomlinson, of the international division of estate agents Knight Frank.

"There are those who have always wanted to be on top of the world. They tend to be wealthy and not to have any children," he explained.

"Once you are above 20 floors, above the trespaces and adjoining buildings, you are in a different world."

"It doesn't matter if you are 500 ft up or 1,000 ft up, you are looking at ants at the bottom. It is a fantastic feeling if you are not afraid of heights."

turn to page 2 col 6

Leader comment, page 8

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Inside

An internet entrepreneur is to launch a foundation next month whose aim is to eliminate child pornography on the net.

Britain

An internet entrepreneur is to launch a foundation next month whose aim is to eliminate child pornography on the net.

World News

A dispute over a cluster of barren islands has united Chinese communists with anti-communists in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Finance

P&O is merging its container business with Dutch firm Nedlloyd, leading to 1,400 job losses. P&O shares were up 53p at 570p.

Sport

George Graham is hot favourite to take over at Leeds United after Howard Wilkinson departed with a handsome pay-off.

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
G2
Crossword 15; Weather 16
Radio 15; TV 16



Sketch

Tel's hat-trick cheers 186 fans



John Duncan

TERRY VENABLES is obviously used to book signings, though the last time he had to look at a queue as long as that waiting for him at Waterstone's E3 branch yesterday they were probably lawyers with invoices rather than fans clutching copies of his new book The Best Game in the World.

Venables has never been afraid to stretch his legs outside the confines of football's closed circuit of groin strains and grass stains and give us a glimpse of his life in the game, though maybe three autobiographies in six years is stretching it a bit.

No one yesterday admitted to the hat-trick — signing copies of his two previous works — Venables: Son of Fred (1991) and Venables: the Autobiography (1994).

At least Venables made his experience count, asking for names to be spelt before scribbling anything, making smiling eye contact with absolutely everyone, and flirting perfectly with the women (about 70 per cent of the queue) who came quivering to ask for his moniker.

"Who is this for, then?" "Just leave the name blank."

"You haven't made your mind up who the lucky guy is yet, eh?" "Errr, no Mr Venables."

Some punters had come largely to fantasise — "Could you sign it 'To Mark, the best player I never picked for England?"

Others came to play mischief with their mates — "To Clive: Arsenal 5, Spurs 0. In your dreams. Best Wishes Terry Venables."

genuinely moved when one fan simply shook his hand and said: "Thank you. You did a good job."

His reaction to "Can you put 'To Alan S. See You in Court!' " was untested.

Venables was a hit too as far as the bookshop was concerned, soaring high in the Waterstone's staff unofficial league table of celebrity signers.

"Thatcher was our biggest," said Bernie Huddy, the floor manager.

"No it was Mr Bean," said the shop manager Stuart Hatwell. "Yes but he didn't say anything, did he, so he doesn't count," said Ms Huddy.

"He just kept in character the whole time. It's nice when someone has a bit of time to say something like Mr Venables."

At his biggest, Venables' queue — 186 in all — explored the fringes of Science Fiction and threatened to invade Cookery; the line for Rowan Atkinson had stretched out of the door and down the street and Mr Bean maintains his grip on the shop record of 750.

"But he wouldn't write personal messages, so it was easier," insisted Ms Huddy.

Muhammad Ali's shaking hand managed a brave 500 in four hours, but Della Smith cooked up a storm in the endurance event, getting through 700 in a full 11 to 7 eight-hour shift.

'I have no regrets because I had nothing to do with ordering the execution of anyone, or even suggesting it. I defended people and that's why they have survived until now'

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Phnom Malai

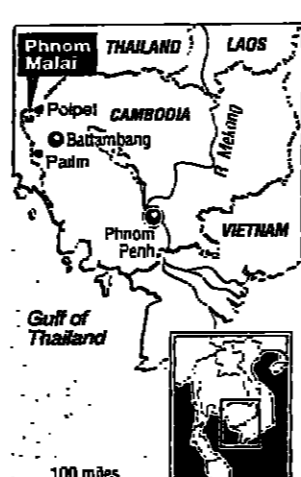


The breakaway Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary (right) with General Pol Saroeun of the Cambodian army at the press conference PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE

Pol Pot defector 'blameless'

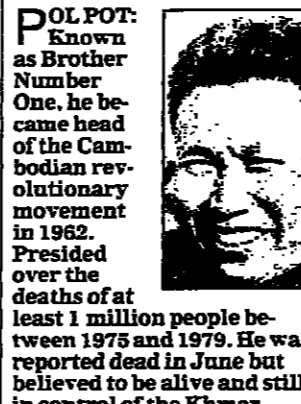
THE once closed world of this key Khmer Rouge military base was invaded by foreign media yesterday as Ieng Sary, the former intimate of Pol Pot and now leader of a breakaway Khmer Rouge faction, presented his case for reconciliation in exchange for peace.

Crowds of wide-eyed villagers lined the dirt roads of the base in north-west Cambodia as Russian-built helicopters ferried scores of journalists, officials and government troops from the border and the capital Phnom Penh as Cambodia took another step towards peace.



Ieng Sary, the former deputy prime minister of a regime that caused the deaths of 2 million Cambodians — for which he and his former brother-in-law Pol Pot were sentenced to death in absentia in 1979 — showed no anxiety about his future.

The leading figures in the Khmer Rouge



POL POT: Known as Brother Number One, he became head of the Cambodian revolutionary movement in 1962. Presided over the deaths of at least 1 million people between 1975 and 1979. He was reported dead in June but believed to be alive and still in control of the Khmer Rouge.

NGUON CHEA: He is seen, along with Pol Pot, as the party's key ideologue. A very shadowy figure, he has never been interviewed since the Khmer Rouge was toppled in 1979. He "resigned" in 1986, but is believed to be still one of the top leaders.

SON SEN: The Khmer Rouge defence minister and security tsar, he was deeply implicated in the horrors of the killing fields.

YUN YAT: Married to Son Sen, she is, with the above, part of what Ieng Sary describes as the "gang of four". As information minister in the Khmer Rouge government, he declared that Buddhism was "incompatible with the revolution".

KHIEU SAMPAN: As nominal president of the Khmer Rouge he handled negotiations at time of UN-brokered transition to democracy in 1992. He is rumoured to want to join Ieng Sary in defecting to the government side.

TA MOK: Brutal, one-legged military commander. In charge of areas where some of the worst massacres occurred. He "resigned" in 1986.

Before driving off in a new land cruiser provided by the Phnom Penh army, he performed another macabre gesture of reconciliation when he handed a diplomat a brown paper bag wrapped in cellophane which held the cremated remains of Mathias Wolfe, the German, who was in his early 30s, had travelled by motorcycle across the border from Thailand into Khmer Rouge territory two years ago. He was captured and promptly executed.

Review

Comeback corpse lacks spark of life

Mick Martin

Maddie Salisbury Playhouse

MADDIE is significant not only as the first musical to be staged at Salisbury Playhouse for six years, but also as one of the first works to have been helped on its way by Stephen Sondheim's celebrated course at Oxford University, which its composer Stephen Keeling was invited to attend.

He emerged from Sondheim's tutelage with a 20-minute extract, which became the basis of an eventual first draft, later workshopped at the National Theatre Studio. No fewer than 11 further drafts, so the programme informs us, were performed before Maddie found its way to the Playhouse in a co-production with Kenneth Wax.

All of which raises the question — can the art of writing a successful musical be taught? On the evidence of the first night of Maddie, the answer is... well, up to a point.

There is poignancy too, in Maddie's reunion with her now septuagenarian former admirer. And there is considerable dramatic potential in the curator's wife's eventual decision to fight back. But while all these elements are reflected in the book, McKenna and Dexter have fallen some way short of finding the means of tying them convincingly together, and so transforming into a coherent whole what at present comes over as an over-long collection of promising bits and pieces.

The sense of dislocation is not dispelled by the songs. Keeling's music is impressively ambitious in range, and McKenna's lyrics steer well clear of the common trap of banality. But ultimately the musical numbers are tuneful rather than memorable. They are not helped by some bafflingly unimaginative musical staging, which robs individual numbers of meaning and expression, and the show as a whole of any sustained feeling of vitality.

Martin Comor's production will gain in definition and fluency as it beds in, and already has moments which suggest what the show could become — none more striking than the scene in which Maddie's outrageous behaviour (splendidly conveyed by Summer Rognlie) scandalises a museum fund-raising evening. But my suspicion is that the overall uncertainty of both rhythm and tone is not wholly the product of early nerves. It may also indicate the fact that in their commendable desire to lick the flesh and bones of the story into theatrical shape, the writers have somehow lost sight of what really makes it tick.

Stylish markers along the way

THE range of projects designed by Sir Norman Foster is considerable. Among them are:

- The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich. Opened 1978. Gleaming, aluminium-skinned arts centre, easily mistaken for aircraft hangar.
The Willis Faber Building Ipswich. Opened 1975. Shiny black insurance company headquarters, in the shape of a grand piano, with a lawn on the roof and swimming pool in basement. Now Grade I-listed.
The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Hong Kong. Opened 1986. Exposed steel skyscraper, with huge internal atrium and a remote-controlled sun scoop to bring light inside. Cost: £500 million.
Stansted Airport Cambridgeshire. Opened 1991. Huge, white steel-and-glass minimalist temple with a vaulted-umbrella like roof.
Barcelona Communications Tower. Opened in 1992. Looks like Tintin's rocket. A needle-thin mast held in position by steel cables.
Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre Glasgow. Locals have dubbed it "the armadillo".
The Reichstag Berlin. Due to open in 1998. Glass dome inserted behind classical facade.



Sir Norman Foster's Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, which is the tallest building in Asia

Bold mould breaking

Deyan Sudjic on an architectural concept that will cast a long shadow

UNLIKE his peers, who have struggled to erect pale imitations of North American originals, Sir Norman Foster is the only British architect to have built a convincing skyscraper. He did the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank tower, which he designed as if nobody had ever built a skyscraper before, going back to first principles to come up with a completely original building.

pear amid the chaos of the Hong Kong skyline, were it not for its site at the head of the colony's Statue Square, one of the only open spaces left on the waterfront.

The Millennium Tower is another deliberate attempt to break out of the constraints of the conventional glass box, but there is no chance that it could disappear on London's skyline. Rather it will transform it for ever.

sculpted top to give it a distinctive personality. This, we think, is a big bold Godzilla, striding into town and casting a long shadow. The most positive thing that can be said about it is that it is large enough and dominant enough to crush the NatWest Tower into visual insignificance.

Upper 40 to go sky high

continued from page 1 The few apartments would make fetch a "stunning price," he said. Life in high condominiums in New York, or even in the Belvedere penthouses in at the top of the pagoda-like 20-storey tower at Chelsea Harbour in London, where prices can be £3.5 million, was different, he pointed out, from being in a council tower block where the lifts were inclined not to work.

an IRA bomb four years ago, Sir Norman, aged 61, said: "Tall buildings are expressions of the energy and aspirations of world class modern cities." He went on: "The London Millennium Tower will be a statement of confidence in the City for the next century. Sunlight hitting the curved glass facade of the building would make it appear 'elegantly slender and provide a different view of the building from each side.'" Sir Norman said. The building would fit in with the skyline in the

heart of the City. It would not in any way stand out like 'a stick of rhubarb'. He added: "The thrill is doing it in London and not having to travel to other parts of the world. London deserves it." Alan Winter, of developers Trafalgar House, said: "There is a requirement for large new high-quality office buildings. It will also provide a landmark statement of the City of London's pre-eminence as Europe's financial capital."

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Unions scorn Dutch auction between Labour and Tories over restrictions on public sector workers

Tories raise strike stakes

Sourias Milne
Labour Editor

THE Tory party yesterday triggered a Dutch auction with Labour over restrictions on public sector strikes, when Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, floated a proposal for a "cooling-off" period of up to one month before industrial action can be taken.

In a transparent attempt to upstage today's well-trailed speech at the TUC conference by Labour's employment spokesman David Blunkett calling for binding arbitration arrangements in the public services, Mr Lang said the time had come to take Margaret Thatcher's step-by-step programme of legal curbs on unions "a little bit further."

Mr Blunkett's intervention had been calculated to draw the political sting of earlier leaks suggesting government ministers had been considering banning public sector strikes in response to this summer's post, rail and London Underground stoppages.

The political stakes will be further raised today when the Communication Workers' Union executive meets to decide whether to escalate its dispute with Royal Mail —

just as Tony Blair arrives in Blackpool to tell union leaders that trade unionism lies in partnership and member services, rather than "strikes and conflict".

Strikes in seven regional railway companies are planned tomorrow by Rail Maritime and Transport (RMT) union members and strike ballot results will be announced for a further 10 companies on Thursday.

Mr Lang's latest election-winning gambit is to extend the one-week notice period unions have to give employers before they go on strike to two weeks or a month. But he added that strike bans in essential services had still not been ruled out; nor had Labour's idea of binding arbitration, though there was a danger, he said, of ending up with a "half-way house".

The Prime Minister added his own imprimatur to Mr Lang's musings, saying strikes were falling into disuse, and were "wholly inappropriate".

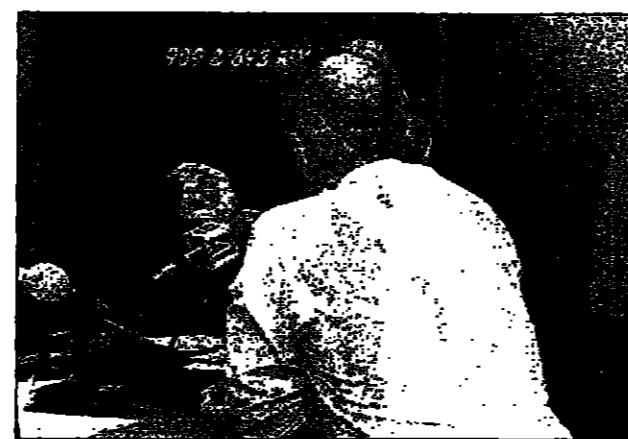
Union reaction at the TUC conference was fierce, with several officials warning that any further restrictions on industrial action risked leading to wildcat "anarchy".

Jimmy Knapp, RMT general secretary, said Mr Lang's idea of a cooling-off period was a nonsense: it had been tried by Ted Heath in the early 1970s and failed.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said the Government should be looking at getting rid of the "need to strike, rather than the right to strike". On the floor of the congress, Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "Labour is pointing the finger at the wrong people."

"In case you didn't notice, it was the employer who sacked the Tilbury dockers, despite a legal ballot. It was the employer who sacked the Liverpool dockers."

The Liberal Democrats' employment spokesman, Don Foster, called Mr Lang's proposals "the unwarranted product of crude political manoeuvring" and Mr Blunkett's "closer to Thatcherism than socialism".



Cometh the man... taking over from Jeremy Hanley at Tory Party HQ; on the air at the BBC and (right) the good news tabloid Look!, which proved bad news for Mawhinney

Major's hard man turns off the voters

David Hencke on the dour Ulsterman who has managed to alienate even the blue-ribose Tories

BRIAN Mawhinney was brought in by John Major to be the Arnold Schwarzenegger of the Tory Party. A tough guy with a killer instinct when dealing with Labour.

But now, just over a year into his job as chairman of the party, the hard man of the hustings is doing no better than his wimpy ham-acting predecessor, Jeremy Hanley.

Far from being a box office hit with the voters, Mr Mawhinney is rated as doing a bad job by an astounding 85 per cent.

Even among the blue-rinsed loyalist vote, the second Ulsterman to make the Cabinet since Walpole's premiership, can only muster a 31 per cent approval rating.

Labour's equivalent of Big Arnie, John Prescott, who promotes Labour with tough-talking and whirly hats, commands 55 per cent support.

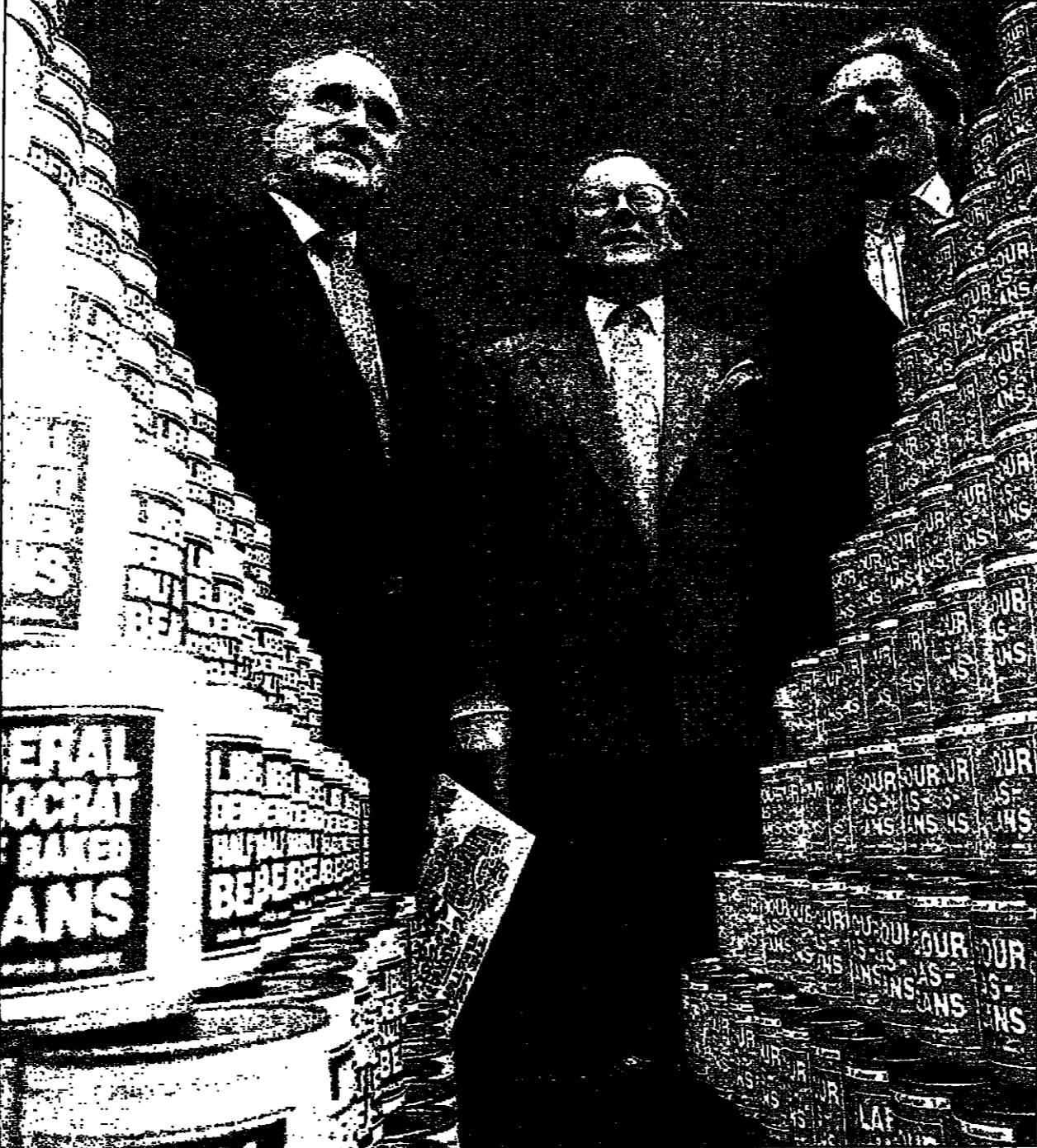
Mr Mawhinney's final humiliation came yesterday with the Daily Telegraph poll showing that even 41 per cent of all Tory voters back Mr Prescott as doing a good job in putting over the anti-Tory case — 10 per cent above the Tory chairman's rating for bashing Labour.

How has Mr Mawhinney done so badly? The dour Ulster Protestant had an appalling reputation in the Department of Health and the Department of Transport.

"The ego has landed" was a regular catchphrase among civil servants when his plane landed.

"I can honestly say he was the most unpleasant man I've ever had the misfortune to work with," said another department official. Those in the Department of Health said he was narrow-minded, prudish, stand-offish and had tempered. This came out when he banned the "smutty" safe sex guide issued by the new Defunct Health Education Authority.

He can be charming to individual journalists, but the man who quaffs Lucozade Lite for small talk and is not keen to take advice or expend too much time on research.



Mr Mawhinney with John Gummer and Michael Heseltine at the launch of the baked bean offensive

Except, of course, to calculate the anti-Tory swing in his Peterborough constituency, where after representing the new town for over a decade, he has now joined the chicken run by opting for a safe rural Cambridgeshire seat next door.

Even nearby Tory neighbours like Jerry Hayes, who plans to stand to the bitter

end to defend Harlow from rampaging Blairites, have privately felt his action was a stab in the back.

His year in Central Office has led to a series of gaffes in speeches and the mishandling of presentations to revive the Tories standing in the polls.

But he does have strong points. He is guaranteed to be loyal to John Major, and is

one of the most sleaze-free politicians in the Tory Party — the only member of the Cabinet who instructed his ministers to have nothing to do with lobbying companies.

He also has loyal spin doctors — Sheila Gunn, the former Times lobby correspondent and ex-mistress of former transport minister Steven Norris, and Charles

Levington, the former Sunday Express political editor.

But Mawhinney was never the favourite of Mr Norris, whose memoirs have been sold to the Daily Mail for a reputed £250,000. Tory insiders will be amazed if yet more Mawhinney gaffes do not emerge in the party faithful's favourite newspaper next month.

Chairman's blunders

BRIAN MAWHINNEY's blundered him in trouble within months of him becoming party chairman on July 5, 1995.

October 10: Ridiculed Camden Council at the party conference for funding the Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre. It emerged the scheme was funded by the Home Office and Save The Children to teach childcare and basic literacy skills to Bangladeshi Women.

October 11: Angered judges by urging people who feel a sentence is too lenient to write in protest to the judge.

December 7: Confused a speaking engagement by the Lord Chancellor at the Guildhall with a cabinet document briefing ministers on Lord Mackay's views. The Telegraph printed a story saying Lord Mackay had warned judges not to overstep the mark in quashing ministers' decisions at the Guildhall when he had said nothing of the sort. The leak was traced back to Mawhinney.

February 12, 1996: He attributed remarks supporting the existing House of Lords to left-wing author and director Jonathan Miller confusing him with journalist Jonathan Miller who had penned them. The author Miller said afterwards: "The man is a fool."

April 18: Launched Look! the good news tabloid which was derided by a number of the people it featured. Darcy Bussell, the ballerina, was portrayed as supporting the Government when she does not.

April 23: Infuriated protesters on Radio 4's Today Programme on the day the local election campaign was launched when it was suggested the Tories would need to do something as dramatic as dumping Thatcher to win the next election.

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Boswell was an atrocious gossip. He had the virtue in a biographer of bad taste, which is to say he was not imposed on by the polite fashions of his day. But then, in the nineteenth century, came earnestness. Biography was crucially infected by the blight of Victorianism.

Michael Holroyd

G2 page 8

Drugs cash 'buys power'

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

THE West is fighting an uphill battle against international drug smugglers as the leading cartels use the annual £500 billion proceeds of their illegal trade to buy off leading politicians and officials, the head of Interpol said yesterday.

Ray Kendall, formerly assistant deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police, warned that the drugs barons were evading detection and capture by burrowing into the political fabric of the developed world.

On the day that police at Heathrow seized 180kg of cocaine with a street value of £30 million in the hold of a jet on a routine flight from South America, Mr Kendall said that a "dimension shift" had occurred in the fight against corruption.

The Interpol secretary general told a conference of more than 800 international law enforcement officers and prosecutors in Cambridge: "The most severe threat today is the enormous economic resources in the possession of organised crime elements."

The £500 billion estimate of the annual proceeds of drug trafficking is only slightly less than the UK's gross domestic product, and Mr Kendall said it allowed the criminals that controlled the trade to "reach to the highest levels of our institutions. You can only corrupt people if you have the capability to do it."

Mr Kendall's warning was followed by a call from David Bickford, former legal adviser to M15 and M16, for the UK government to abolish secret offshore banking, which he said was a key weapon of organised crime.

"The only justification for offshore bank secrecy is the economic benefit derived to the countries harbouring these offshore centres," he said. "That this justification is put forward at all is an example of the overwhelming subservient corruptive influence of organised crime."

DEAR MR TAXMAN

THE ONLINE SERVICE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SELF ASSESSMENT

I FEEL LEFT OUT

Dear Taxman I feel neglected, all my friends get tax returns to fill in but you have never sent me one. As I am now 32 years old is there something wrong with me? Ignored, COVENTRY.

TAXMAN SAYS Age has nothing to do with whether you get a tax return or not. We will send you a tax return if you are self-employed, a company director, or someone with more complex tax affairs. Most people don't get a tax return so you're certainly not alone. However, if you receive income that has not been taxed and you haven't been sent a tax return you must tell us. Call your Tax Office and talk to someone there if you are still worried. The telephone number is in the phone book under 'Inland Revenue'.

DO I NEED AN ACCOUNTANT?

Dear Taxman To date, I keep proper records, the new system should make things easier. You may even find time for a more exciting hobby like collecting cheese labels.

AM I UP-TO-DATE? Will I now be forced to use an accountant and give up one of my few interests in life? Bored, DYFED.

TAXMAN SAYS Not if you don't wish to. If you already deal with tax affairs yourself there is no reason to change. In fact, if you are organised and

NO MORE TAX

Dear Taxman Is Self Assessment just a cunning way of wheedling more tax out of me? Paranoid, BARNES.

TAXMAN SAYS No. Self Assessment is not a new tax and does not affect the amount of tax you pay. It is just a clearer and more straightforward system for working out and paying tax.

How big is it?

Dear Taxman How big is the new Self Assessment tax form? I have a bad back and the doctor says I can't do any heavy lifting. Worried, BRADFORD.

TAXMAN SAYS From next April most people will get a basic, slim-line, eight-page tax return, along with any extra pages we think you may need. If, for example,

Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are— Self-employed Employed A Pensioner Seeking work

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4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Man arrested after fatal London blast

A MAN of 50 was arrested in Ealing, west London, yesterday following an explosion in a four-storey building there in which one man died and two other people were seriously injured.

According to firefighters, a fire after the explosion — which police are treating as possible arson — caused a gas explosion in the early hours of yesterday morning. It blew out the front of the building which contained a grocer's shop on the ground floor and flats above it. Several cars parked outside were also damaged.

The dead man, who has not yet been named, was found on the second floor. Another man, aged 24, and a woman of 25 who escaped by jumping 40ft from the top storey as neighbours looked on were last night described as critical in hospital with serious burns and other injuries. Two others in the building at the time were also taken to hospital suffering from shock and minor injuries, while more than 20 people living nearby were evacuated from their homes. Raymond Campbell, who lives near the scene of the explosion said: "There were some people standing on the pavement and I could see a couple on top of the building. Some guys were screaming at them to jump and they just leapt off the top storey, falling on to the pavement below." — *Vivek Chaudhary*

Japanese firm race case

A FORMER senior executive at a Japanese finance firm in the City of London yesterday accused the bosses of racial discrimination. Brian Mooyart, 49, of Faversham, Kent, told an industrial tribunal in Bury, St Edmunds, Suffolk, that bosses at Sakura Finance International treated non-Japanese staff like "second class citizens". He said the firm operated "what would appear to be a blatantly racial, doctrinal tract" and that when he questioned one of his bosses about this he was told it was "a fact of life".

The tribunal heard Mr Mooyart alleged he was overlooked for a department head's job, which went to an Oriental rival, and that less skilled managers had on more than one occasion arrived from Tokyo and been placed above him. Mr Mooyart, whose case is being funded by the Commission for Racial Equality, claims unfair dismissal against the securities house, where he worked between 1987 and 1995. The company denies racial discrimination and the hearing is expected to last until Friday.

Fondling ex-head jailed

THE former headmaster of a Devon boarding school was yesterday jailed for three years at Bristol crown court after being convicted of indecently assaulting boys in his care. Robert Hay, a 42-year-old father of two, was convicted in July on seven charges of indecent assault involving six pupils aged nine to 12. The assaults took place between August 1992 and June of last year.

During the 10-day trial the court heard how Hay visited the boys' dormitories after lights out and fondled them as they lay in bed pretending to be asleep. The school cannot be named for legal reasons. Hay, who is seeking leave to appeal, maintained during the trial he had done nothing indecent to any of the boys. — *Geoffrey Gibbs*

Police check on union cash

POLICE were yesterday asked to investigate the finances of the GMB general union in the North following the departure of a senior official amid complaints of irregularities. In calling for a tough action, the union's 80-strong central executive council also decided to sack Nick Anderson, GMB northern regional secretary until two weeks ago. Mr Anderson, 56, who was also northern regional chairman of the Labour Party, had opted to take early retirement when an auditor's report raised "serious matters of concern". A union official has suggested that extravagance rather than dishonesty is at issue.

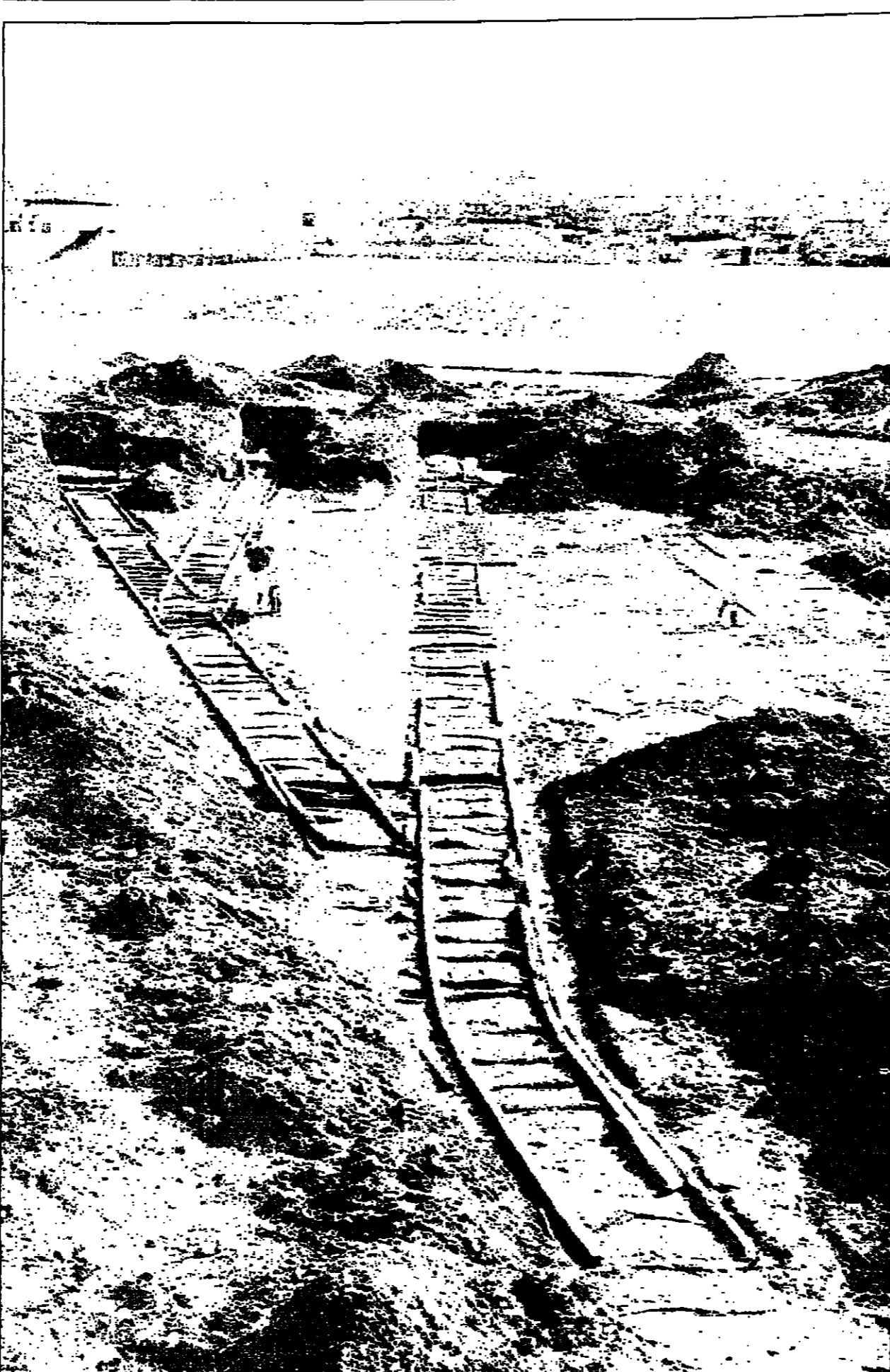
Botham libel appeal

CRICKETER Ian Botham is to appeal and seek a retrial after losing his 13-day libel case against Imran Khan, his lawyer said yesterday. Botham, who with fellow cricketer Allan Lamb sought damages against the former Pakistan captain, is appealing on the grounds that the jury was misled during the High Court libel action, which they lost in July — leaving them with an estimated \$400,000 legal bill. Botham and Lamb had sued Khan for libel, claiming he branded them cheats and racists. A spokesman for Botham's solicitors said Lamb was still considering his position.

'Rogue' Tory stepping down

JOHN Carlisle, one of John Major's most troublesome backbenchers and the member for Luton North who threatened to challenge him for the Tory leadership, is to step down as an MP after 17 years of the general election in order to return to business. He becomes the 57th sitting Tory MP to step down at the election, and Labour seized on the news as the latest example of a Tory MP deserting a seat that will become marginal as a result of boundary changes. — *Rebecca Smithers*

Oldest wooden railway found preserved by coal waste



ONE of the oldest surviving railway networks in the country has been found under the remains of an old coke works on the outskirts of Sunderland, writes Peter Hetherington.

Perfectly preserved under layers of coal dust and hardened colliery waste, it includes 400 metres of wooden rails dating from 1780 — and grouped to form sidings.

Railway buffs yesterday said the discovery pushed the frontiers of industrial history back by a considerable period. "This could well be the oldest surviving

system in the world," enthused Andrew Scott, director of the National Railway Museum at York.

A makeshift points system linking five separate tracks, and one of the first examples of iron rails, probably made around 1820, have been uncovered.

The discovery, on the 150-acre site of the Lambton coke works, which closed in the mid-1960s, was made when an excavator driver uncovered a few wooden rails during site reclamation.

Sunderland council secretly alerted archaeologists

and excavation revealed the finest example of an old wooden wagonway.

Keith Hamilton, the council's conservation manager, said the site was revealing the continuing history of railways from the first wooden track, through to iron rails — and then on to full locomotion.

So far about 70 metres has been found, but another 330 is believed to be lying close to the surface.

After archaeologists had photographed and videoed the rails, they were quickly recovered to prevent deterioration.

Now Sunderland council, which financed the dig, needs another £10,000 so that archaeologists can complete their investigations before winter.

Cash from the Heritage Lottery fund to pay for a feasibility study is being sought.

The problem now is what to do with the site, which lies on the route of a proposed bypass. Some, like Mr Hamilton, think the area should be declared a National Heritage site, while others say sections of track might be distributed to various museums.

Group aims to clean up Internet

Robin Hunt

AN INTERNET entrepreneur is to launch a foundation next month whose aim is to eliminate 99.9 per cent of child pornography on the Internet in the UK.

Peter Daw, founder of Unipalm Pipes, which he recently sold for a reputed £35 million, announced yesterday the formation of Safety Net to "hinder the distribution of illegal material on the Internet". The service which includes a hotline, will allow anyone to report incidents of pornography and copyright infringements.

The announcement coincided with a claim by a lawyer that a UK regulatory body for the Internet will be in place "within a year". Nick Higham, a partner at Denton Hall said yesterday: "The Internet service providers will be given a few months to clean up their act. If they don't make progress we will see increased police activity, and then a Private Member's Bill to test the water." He said a regulatory body was likely.

Mr Daw, who describes himself as an interested citizen, said his initiative was because "there has to be action now: the public sentiment is there". He hoped his foundation would offer a two-tier service: providing net users with a focus for complaints and offering Internet service providers a range of commercial services to clean up their web sites.

These services are: a classification process of the various newsgroups which carry information (it is these which have caused most widespread public alarm, as some carry explicit child and adult pornography).

Safety Net will also offer to search for material which has been complained about, and classify it against its own checklist. There will be a service to build filters against pornographic and other types of material, and a pre-vetted news service which has already removed articles that will bring distress or break the law.

The announcement, at an Internet and Censorship seminar run by the Internet De-

velopers Association, was welcomed by Superintendent Mike Hoskins of the chief and vice unit of the Metropolitan Police.

Home Office sources confirmed yesterday that an inter-departmental working group is examining pornography on the Internet as part of a wider brief to investigate obscenities.

Earlier Mr Hoskins, a member of the Home Office working party, had suggested that Internet service providers who make child pornography available on the net are committing offences.

The technical issues are highly complex, child pornographers are able to disguise the material to other newsgroups anonymously.

The commercially minded of the net community came out strongly in favour of censorship, but the service providers are most worried. "For those people who build web sites, of course they want the web cleaned up," said one. "I'm more worried about going to jail."

John Browning, executive editor of Wired magazine in the UK, said news groups on the Internet are not published per se, but are like parks into which anyone can venture. Mr Hoskins disagrees. News groups, he says, are like libraries, and the librarian is the Internet service provider.

Cliff Stanford, founder of Demon Internet, a service provider that has been the focus of much of the debate about child pornography, suggested a hotline to the DTI. "With a lot of hard work we will make something happen," he said.

Others were not so sure. A spokeswoman for Feminists Against Censorship, and David Webb of the National Campaign for the Reform of the obscene Publications Act, both claimed this was an attempt to establish an arbitrary system of regulation. Others called it an attempt to impose a quango by the back door.

Mr Daw disagreed, but said that while it was not an objective of the foundation to become the official UK classification and censorship body, it was a possibility. Mr Daw said if that happened he would stand down.

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Discarded gun goes off in hands of boy aged 10

Nick Varley

POLICE were last night conducting forensic tests on a semi-automatic handgun which was fired by a 10-year-old boy after children found it dumped in an alley.

Adam Walsh was playing hide-and-seek with friends when a seven-year-old discovered the weapon in undergrowth near their homes in Coventry.

The children thought it was a toy but were not sure if it was a water pistol or a cap gun. They decided to take it back to Adam's home, yards away, to ask his mother.

But as Adam walked to the front door carrying the Colt self-loading pistol it went off. The bullet hit the door frame.

His mother Deborah, aged 30, said: "They had carried it all the way round to the front of my house unaware that it was real and had bullets inside."

"It was then that Adam's finger must have touched the trigger and it went off. I heard the bang and went outside to see Adam just standing there looking so shocked."

"It wasn't until I saw the bullet embedded in the wall that I realised it was a real gun."

"There were other children standing around and any one of them could have been killed."

"I just hope the police can get some fingerprints off the gun and put away whoever dumped it there."

Firearms experts said the weapon, a 7.65mm semi-automatic pistol could kill at more than 50 yards.

Police are now checking whether it had been used in a crime before being dumped.

Sgt Steve Craddock, of Coventry CID, said: "This could have had far more tragic consequences."

County Durham to Dusseldorf taxi fare worth £600 minus tip

Owen Bowcott

PART-TIME cabbie Gary Chisholm was used to running fares around his home town of Peterlee, County Durham, as many times as far afield as Newcastle. Then six unemployed building workers walked in and asked to be taken to work — near Dusseldorf.

Gary and his employers, Phillips Taxis, thought they were joking until the men produced a £600 and said they needed to be in Germany the following day to carry out asbestos-stripping work.

The day-long 750-mile ride ended without a tip because the men, from Hartlepool and Jarrow, were so short of cash.

But the taxi company was not complaining. "The North-east isn't the best place to find work," said the firm's manager, Mick Lister, aged 49, "and when these lads got the chance they weren't going to be stopped."

"We were glad to help them make it to the site on time. But Gary needed a day off when he reached home."

Most of those who travel to work in Germany are building projects — as celebrated in the television series Auf Wiedersehen Pet — nowadays rely on scheduled flights or own a vehicle.

"These lads had thought about taking a flight but realised it would be far more expensive when you added all the local taxi rides," said Mr Lister. "Their final destination was 90 miles south of Dusseldorf. So they decided to go for a door-to-door service."

Mirren picks up first Emmy

Vivek Chaudhary

ACTRESS Helen Mirren picked up her first Emmy award on another successful night for Britain at America's premier television awards ceremony.

Ms Mirren was named best lead actress at the ceremony in Pasadena for her role as a police inspector in Prime Suspect: Sent of Darkness.

She told the audience at the 48th Emmy awards ceremony, American television's equivalent of the Oscars: "I'd like to thank Cagney and Lacey, who led the way. I'm dead chuffed. That means I'm very, very pleased in America."

Alan Rickman took the award for best male actor for his role in Rasputin, with



Award winners... Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman

Greta Scacchi being named best supporting actress for her part in the historical drama.

Channel Four's Gulliver's Travels won five awards, including best mini-series while the hugely popular science fiction series The X-Files also won five awards.

Medical drama ER won the top drama award while Denis Franz picked up two Emmys, one as outstanding lead actor for his portrayal of hardened detective Andy Sipowicz in NYPD Blue and the other for best dramatic actor.

There was, however, some disappointing news for British stars. Tracey Ullman was narrowly beaten in the best variety, music or comedy special with her Best of Tracey Takes On comedy show missing out.

Angela Lansbury, who has been nominated for an Emmy 15 times without winning, once again failed to pick up an award for her role in the Murder She Wrote series.

The award for best dramatic actress went instead to Kathy Barker in the series Picket Fences.

Singer Tony Bennett won his first Emmy for best performance in a variety or music programme.

The ceremony was watched by an estimated world-wide television audience of 600 million.

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Unruly pupil school hit by boycott

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

PARENTS withdrew more than 30 children yesterday from the Nottinghamshire junior school where a disruptive boy is receiving individual tuition after a strike threat by teachers.

A compromise agreement between the governing body of Manton junior school, Worksop, and the teachers' union was jeopardised by protests from other parents demanding that the 10-year-old be removed from the school.

Matthew Wilson was twice expelled by the headteacher for disruptive behaviour, but was reinstated by the governors. Members of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers refused to teach him this term, but after talks arranged by the local authority Matthew returned to the school yesterday to be taught by a supply teacher at a cost of £14,000 a year.

Nottinghamshire county council made no comment yesterday, but it is understood a meeting with parents is to be arranged. The dispute could now escalate as local authorities threaten teachers with court action.

A petition signed by 150 people has called for the boy's removal from the school. "They are taking our children's money to pay for him to have a one-to-one teacher. These children won't go back until he is out of the school," said one mother.

Under the deal agreed between governors and union leaders, Matthew was escorted into school when other pupils and staff were in their classrooms. A teacher gave him lessons and was due to

escort him home before other pupils broke for lunch. Matthew also has to abide by a contract of good behaviour.

Matthew's mother, Pamela Cliff, denies her son is violent, and only agreed to have him taught in isolation to prevent a strike closing the 190-pupil school. Her solicitor Steven Williams, who proposed a meeting of parents and teachers, said: "She is now upset that he is being given no incentive to improve his behaviour. Not being allowed to play with other kids is a hell of a punishment."

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said he understood the concerns of parents and conceded that the solution "is very far from ideal". The £14,000 being spent on Matthew's education was the only way of keeping the school open.

Teachers' leaders yesterday accused ministers of breaking promises to strengthen school security made after the Dunblane massacre and the murder of head teacher Philip Lawrence, writes John Carvel.

Cillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, told the National Union of Teachers that any extra funds for security measures must come out of general educational grants — leaving local authorities to pick up 40 per cent of the cost.

Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said none of the money would be available in the present financial year and there was no commitment to continued funding. "They are doing nothing, and they are doing it slowly."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said local authorities did not have the money this year and could not afford a 40 per cent share.

Dead conductor faced sex case

Alan Watkins

ARENEWED choral conductor had been charged with indecency involving a child under 16 the day before he plunged to his death from a road bridge.

Christopher Barnett, aged 37, of Halesworth, Suffolk, was told police were investigating two other allegations against him.

For the past 12 years Mr Barnett was director of the Wenhamton boys' choir, whose patron is composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

A police statement yesterday confirmed that officers from the Suffolk special offences team had charged and released him on police bail "pending further inquiries into two other indecency allegations of a similar nature".

The force said a joint police and social services inquiry into the allegations would continue and revealing that letters are to be sent to the parents of other children believed to have been at risk, urging them to speak to their sons and to contact the police if they have any concerns.

Mr Barnett was found dead on the banks of the River Orwell last Thursday after apparently throwing himself off the 160 ft high bridge on the A12. The alarm was raised after his car was found parked nearby. His death occurred on the eighth birthday of one of his two sons.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Ravasio, who is leading the police inquiry, said: "Through his work Mr Barnett had contact with a lot of

young people. Despite his death, we still have an ongoing inquiry and we also still have a very real responsibility to ensure that young people who may have been victims get the appropriate counselling.

"This is obviously a very sensitive area, but our first priority must be to make sure that any boys who come forward get the correct help. All such cases will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and treated with the utmost sensitivity. There is no need for anyone to attend a police station as we have specialist facilities to allow us to speak to people in private."

Mr Barnett had helped his choir to many international successes, including a recent appearance at the Vatican before the Pope and a concert at the White House. The choir regularly performed at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral.

In a statement shortly after his death, the choir praised Mr Barnett for creating a musical environment which had "enriched the lives of many young people". A meeting is to be held with parents to discuss the future of the choir which is made up of boys drawn from north Suffolk.

Prayers were said for Mr Barnett at many local churches over the weekend. As well as the Wenhamton choir, he also worked with up to 17 other choral ensembles and had built an international reputation as a choir trainer.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances. An inquest will be held.

British Association annual science festival in Birmingham



A schoolboy experiments with an exhibit at the British Association festival in Birmingham yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH GAVIN FOGG

Radar uncovers buried Roman city

In brief

Jane Alfred

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have unearthed "British Pompeii" without putting a spade into the ground, they revealed at the British Association's annual science festival in Birmingham, which opened yesterday.

They described how remote surveying techniques produced plans of city life. Wroxeter which was discovered a few kilometres from the Shropshire town of Shrewsbury and was the fourth largest city in Roman Britain. It was inhabited for more than four hundred years.

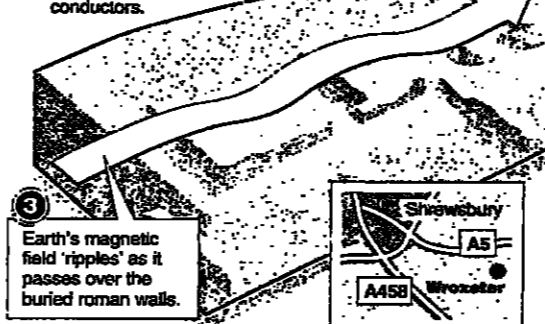
"There's still a place for spades in archaeology," said Simon Buteaux, director of field archaeology at Birmingham University. "These images give you a plan, but it's not like coming into contact with the real thing. Because spades are so expensive, so destructive, we need to complement them with other techniques."

Archaeologists used magne-

Digging without spades

An archaeological dig at Wroxeter, near Shrewsbury, is pioneering new ways of digging up the past. All the data from the various surveys are fed through a computer which builds a 3D model of the site, in this case a Roman town.

1 Resistivity
Electrodes are buried in the ground and a current passed between them. Walls have a higher resistance: damp ditches are good conductors.



2 Ground penetrating radar
The same principle as that used to detect aircraft except the radio waves are 'fed' into the ground. The time it takes for the echo to return suggests the depth of the denser (usually stone) objects in among the lighter soil.

3 Magnetometry
Dense objects buried underground cause minute distortions to the earth's magnetic field. The survey team criss-cross the site using a fluxgate gradiometer, a device highly sensitive to magnetic fields.

tometry, resistivity and ground penetrating radar to survey the buried city.

Resistivity and magnetometry exploit distortions in electrical resistance and the earth's magnetic field —

caused by buried walls and ditches — to produce two-dimensional images of the lost city.

To unravel the complex layer of remains at Wroxeter, teams of archaeologists have

also used ground penetrating radar to create "time slices". These are radar generated pictures of the city taken at different depths, which stacked together form 3D images of Roman city life.

Using these techniques the archaeologists have unearthed hidden traces of houses, shops, streets and even a Roman church. They have also found the remains of a fire which swept through the city, destroying market stalls and buildings.

"With a place like Wroxeter you can't realistically dig the whole city, so you've got to use these techniques to combine with the archaeology," Mr Buteaux said.

Wroxeter gradually decayed but remained complete in plan after being abandoned in medieval times for Shrewsbury.

"It's going to be places like Wroxeter that can give us the whole plan of a city life," said Mr Buteaux.

"That's what Wroxeter offers, which very few places can."

The archaeologists ultimately hope to produce a virtual reality experience of the city which the public can use to wander through the streets and buildings of Virconium Cornoviorum, as the Romans called Wroxeter.

TECHNIQUES for suppressing nitric oxide in the blood vessel walls could save 100,000 lives a year, scientists revealed yesterday. There are 200,000 cases of septic shock in Britain and Europe each year: 40 to 50 per cent of which result in death.

Nitric oxide is a natural agent which controls blood pressure and is an agent in the treatment of heart attacks. Blood pressure rises as the nitric oxide level in the body falls, and this suggested new treatments for hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol disorders. But, Salvador Moncada, of the University College London, told the festival yesterday that it was now understood that patients in septic shock were over-producing nitric oxide. — Tim Radford

THE Wellcome Trust charity yesterday announced a science writing prize that would be "bigger than the Booker".

The winner — who will be a scientist who has not hitherto written a popular science book — would get £25,000 in instalments to write a book about the work to which they had devoted their career. Entrants will submit to the judges a chapter and a synopsis of their planned book.

ONE hundred million years ago, Antarctica was covered with forest, and vegetarian dinosaurs browsed on deciduous leaves. There were large rivers and catastrophic floods which covered trees and animals in mud, leaving them as fossils to be excavated by scientists today. Now more than 99 per cent of the continent lies under ice, in places nearly three miles deep.

David Cantrill, of the British Antarctic Survey, told the festival yesterday: "The forests seem to indicate some sort of temperate climate. You have deciduous types of leaves, and the growth rings preserved in the wood tell us there is a seasonal climate. Continental drift ended it all." — Tim Radford

Research 'golden egg'

Tim Radford
Science Editor

A LEADING scientist last night warned the Government that "ignorant and insensitive" plans to manage university research on business lines "would kill a goose that was still laying golden eggs".

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, rector of Imperial College, London, and president of the festival, said universities made a significant contribution to wealth and security by spontaneous, undirected research. "Even the best foresight panel in the world is going to be unlikely to identify the one coming from left field, the unexpected: penicillin, or BSE," he said.

Laser research began in university physics departments, and had become the

centre of an enormous industry. Universities helped Britain's invisible exports. Some 80,000 foreign post-graduate researchers, in Britain because of the international reputation of its universities and laboratories, provided £1

'It is not possible to measure the contribution of university research'

billion a year in foreign earnings.

Britain was a world leader in producing research scientists. "With a population about a fifth that of the US and a research spend of about a tenth, we produce nearly the

same number of research workers with PhDs as they do.

But the real contribution of university research to national well-being was probably impossible to measure. Should it be judged by the value scientists had for industry, of the creation of jobs? Or the way it broadened and informed public debate on scientific and ethical matters?

"Or is it to be judged by the contribution research makes to the underlying knowledge that human beings have of their universe, themselves and other forms of life?"

Science and technology were more important now than at any time in history, Sir Ronald said. "That is the message of global warming, of modern fertility treatment, of Brest Spar, of BSE."

Mission Impossible: Education, page 10

Asian entrepreneurs hope offspring will move into professional careers

Chris Mihill

THE entrepreneurial drive of Britain's Asian businessmen may run out of steam as their children go into professional careers, researchers say today.

Asian shopkeepers and small businessmen, praised for their get-up-and-go by Baroness Thatcher, often chose self-employment not to become rich but because of a lack of job opportunities. Many want their children to go into careers like medicine or law.

A survey of 129 businesses by Tariq Modood, Hilary Metcalfe and Satnam Virdee of the Policy Studies Institute, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, found that half had increased turnover since setting up, but a fifth had seen a decrease.

Pakistanis were generally less successful than African Asians or Indians.

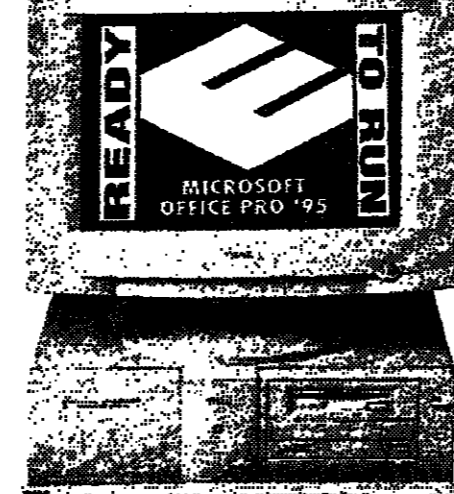
One in four British Asians is self-employed, twice the proportion for the white population. Among Pakistanis, in particular, most said they set up businesses because of a lack of local jobs or racism in the employment market.

"There was a fairly strong feeling amongst all Asians that they did not want their children to carry on their business. Half were against them doing this with only one fifth in favour, suggesting that the boom in self-employment may be about to run out of steam," the report says.

Many businesses remained one-man operations or relied on family labour. However, the 12 largest between them employed nearly 300 people. Nearly half the businesses were in the retail sector.

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The president's fiery populism has begun to turn authoritarian, reports David Hearst in Minsk

Belarus adrift with bully at the helm



Lukashenko: 'President who is usurping all power'

HE IS known as "Lukcastro", and every other month he disconnects an independent radio station from its transmitter or freezes the funds of independent newspapers. He bullies parliament, bans demonstrations and issues decrees on the length of time state officials should be on their radio telephones. He is Alexander Lukashenko, a fiery orator catapulted to the Belarus presidency in July 1994 on a wave of popular discontent with economic decline, who has since become his small country's main hate figure. "I am often criticised for apparently authoritarian methods of management, but I don't think this is right," Mr Lukashenko told a Russian newspaper. "Yes, sometimes I

act firmly, decisively. I declare a target and I do everything to achieve it. But this is not authoritarianism. This is inevitability." What is inevitable is a clash with parliament, which the 41-year-old president plans to neuter in a way which would make Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, seem liberal. On November 7, President Lukashenko plans to hold a referendum on a new constitution which would extend his term of office for two and a half years, give him the power to choose an upper chamber of parliament to give presidential decrees the force of law, and allow him to appoint half the members of the constitutional court and central election committee. It's a familiar story in the post-Soviet world and it may well end in a familiar way

with an armed stand-off and talk of a "state coup". Mr Lukashenko's propensity for hands-on management has united a fractured opposition. The communists and nationalists — who once supported him for his promises to reunite Belarus with Russia — now speak of him in much the same tones as the nationalist rightwing Belarusian Popular Front, two of whose leaders have obtained political asylum in the United States. The former chairman of the national bank of Belarus, Stanislav Bagandovich, has proposed impeaching the president and parties in parliament are this week formulating a campaign to scrap the presidency and create a parliamentary democracy. Gennady Karpyenko, the deputy speaker of parliament,

said: "A broad circle of politicians in Belarus are uniting against a president who is simply usurping all power." Mr Lukashenko has threatened to dismiss parliament if it does not approve the November 7 referendum date. He has presided over a stagnating economy, which slumped by 10 per cent last year and is only held together by Russia's decision to waive \$900 million of debts. But these problems cannot all be attributed to Mr Lukashenko, who came to power on a popular wave of economic re-integration with Russia. His nationalist opponents decide him for scrapping the national flag and reintroducing the Soviet one and for making Russian once again the official language. But for the vast majority of the 10 million people in the

country, independence from Russia has made little sense. The republic used to be wealthy, functioning as a giant assembly factory for the Soviet Union. This is not a nation that feels it has "won" independence from Russia — it has had the link severed. Russia is now wary of taking on responsibility for the wrecked Belarus economy, and with Western aid seizing up there is little chance of help on the way. Belarus is caught in a trap: shunned by the West and neglected by Russia, its independence has brought it the worst of both worlds. Its best-known writer, Vasil Bykov, says: "My forecast is gloomy. I see a despotism coming of a more fascist form. The communists were at least civilised in their fight against the national movement."

World news in brief

Clinton puts gentle pressure on Israel

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton engaged in a round of mild arm-twisting with Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday, gently urging him to accelerate the peace process with the Palestinians but avoiding any show of tension with a critical political ally. White House aides said Mr Clinton would request "progress on the ground" from Mr Netanyahu, who has irritated Washington with his laggardly approach to peace. This is the Likud prime minister's second visit to Washington since his election victory in May. He came under pressure to ease further the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip allowing more Palestinians to enter Israel for work — and to honour his predecessor's commitment to withdraw from Hebron, the West Bank city which includes an enclave of 450 Jewish settlers. At talks in London last weekend, the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, urged the Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, to take "concrete steps" to improve relations with the Palestinians. But even as Mr Clinton reiterated that request yesterday, he stated only the gentlest pressure on Mr Netanyahu. Clinton aides explained that the Israeli prime minister had allayed Washington's chief concern by finally meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, Yasser Arafat, last week. Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators yesterday resumed detailed talks on implementing their three-year-old peace accord, after more than three months of delays. The latest talks, in the West Bank self-rule enclave of Jericho, produced agreement on procedures and an immediate start on the most pressing issue of all: Israel's promised redeployment of occupation troops in Hebron. — Jonathan Freedland, Washington, and Derek Brogan, Jerusalem.

Britain doubts test ban treaty

THE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, yesterday cast doubt over whether a global nuclear test ban treaty would be ratified, even if the United Nations were to adopt the pact this week. But Australia's UN ambassador, Richard Butler, was confident the UN resolution on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would be adopted, possibly today, and that the treaty would come into force within the next three years. "Discussing it in the United Nations may help in indicating world opinion, but it will not in itself clinch the treaty," Mr Portillo said in Canberra. He is in Australia for defence talks. He said the treaty's success was threatened by disagreements about nuclear disarmament and the need for states to sign it to bring it into force. The treaty would ban atmospheric and underground nuclear tests. "What that was last discussed in Geneva [at the conference for disarmament], we were a little way short of a consensus," Mr Portillo said. — Reuters, Sydney.

Bisho march 'was a trap'

THE government of the former South African president F. W. de Klerk was responsible for the 1992 "Bisho massacre" of 29 black protesters, a former secretary-general of the African National Congress, Cyril Ramaphosa, said yesterday. Mr Ramaphosa told Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he believed a 60,000-strong crowd marching for the abolition of the Ciskei tribal homeland was lured into a trap. He said the border fence between South Africa and the nominally independent homeland had been deliberately cut, allowing ANC marchers to surge through. The homeland army, led by Ciskei's then military ruler, Brigadier Pius Qoqo, fired without warning, but Mr Ramaphosa said Mr De Klerk's government was ultimately to blame. "Qoqo would not have had the courage to do what he did otherwise," he said. — Reuters, Bisho.

Cyprus 'facing catastrophe'

THE Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, warned yesterday that the island of Cyprus was heading for catastrophe unless immediate action was taken to reduce the growing tension between his community and the Greek Cypriots. He was speaking after a Turkish Cypriot soldier was shot dead on Sunday and another was wounded at a sentry post on the line which separates the communities since 1974. His people have blamed the Greek Cypriots, but the Cyprus government says there is no evidence its supporters were involved. Turkey's foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, will attend the soldier's funeral today. Last month, two Greek Cypriots were killed during demonstrations against the Turkish army's occupation of the north of the island, Mr Denktaş said. He was again appealing for talks with the Cypriot president, Glafos Clerides. "If the Greek Cypriots want to keep Cyprus in the headlines and instead of cooling the atmosphere by meeting and talking they want to keep adding fire to it, then I think the signals are that we are heading for catastrophe," he said. — Chris Drake, Nicosia.

New scandal rocks Belgium

BELGIUM was last night convulsed by the second national scandal in three weeks as police stepped up an investigation into the assassination five years ago of the former deputy prime minister, Andre Coolen. The latest revelations come after a separate inquiry into a paedophile ring led to the discovery of the bodies of two eight-year-old girls and two teenagers. The effect has been to renew public criticism of the police and judicial system and prompt accusations of cover-ups and incompetence. The inquiries have so far remained separate, despite frenzied speculation about alleged links between the paedophiles and corrupt politicians. The prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, was yesterday forced to promise an investigation into the handling of the Coolen case. The chief investigator, Raymond Broese, has already stepped down. Police have arrested four men, including Alain Van der Biest, a political protégé who is a former minister in the Wallonian regional government, on suspicion of involvement in the assassination. All had been questioned before but the inquiry had been dormant until the paedophile scare. — Stephen Bates, Brussels.

Burundi blockade eased

AFRICAN countries said yesterday they had agreed to ease sanctions against Burundi to address humanitarian aid on condition that the embargo's purpose was not undermined. The regional sanctions co-ordinating committee said United Nations flights would be allowed into Burundi, and staff and agencies allowed to bring in fuel by road. "The committee decided to address genuine humanitarian concerns in a manner that does not undermine the very essence of sanctions," said a statement issued in Nairobi yesterday. The committee consists of representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and the Organisation of African Unity. Zaire did not attend the meeting. UN agencies, bringing in baby food and essential items for infants and hospital patients, would be subjected to "strict verification and control arrangements". Burundi's military ruler, Pierre Buyoya, had urged the committee to lift sanctions imposed after an army coup ousted the president, Sylvestre Ntibunganya, on July 25. But the committee said the regime had so far failed to meet any of the conditions set when sanctions were imposed. — Reuters, Nairobi.

Mao poems mark anniversary

MAO Zedong peered out from the front pages of Chinese newspapers yesterday when state publishers issued three new volumes of his poems and letters to mark the 20th anniversary of his death. Thousands of Chinese formed a 1,000-tonne queue for a glimpse of the embalmed body of the Great Helmsman, lying in a crystal coffin at a mausoleum on Tiananmen Square in the heart of the capital Beijing. The ruling Communist Party paid its tribute to the father of new China with the publication of a collection of Mao's poems, a biography and letters he wrote to friends and relatives in his birthplace, Shaoshan in central Hunan province. Newspapers splashed across their front pages the news of the publication of the third to fifth volumes of the "Collected Works of Mao Zedong" but made no mention of Mao's now-defunct policies of endless proletarian revolution. — Reuters, Beijing.

Sonja's Eagles try to force Swiss doves off the air

Bosnian Elections

Julian Borger in Pale

A SWISS-sponsored radio station broadcasting in Bosnia has been experiencing some interference lately. Its output of pre-election public information programmes is being pushed off the air by a bizarre mix of the Eagles and Orthodox choirs. The source of this interference is the latest venture of the Karadzic family. Orthodox Radio St. Jovan, which broadcasts middle-of-the-road rock, church music, and party political broadcasts for the Serb Democratic Party (SDS), 12 hours a day across Serb-held Bosnia. It is owned and managed by Sonja Karadzic, the daughter of the wartime leader of the SDS and Republika Srpska, Radovan, who is keeping his head down because of an international arrest warrant. She was a medical student before the war, but quickly rose to control press coverage throughout her father's fiefdom. Radio Sonja, as Orthodox Radio St. Jovan was immediately dubbed, arrived in a big way on August 24 — broadcasting from two studios on five FM frequencies simultaneously. Questions have inevitably been raised about where the money has come from. The Karadzic family was frequently accused, even in the Bosnian Serb parliament, of profiting from sanctions by smuggling petrol into the country. Sonja's arch-rival in the Bosnian Serb media world, Colonel Milovan Milutinovic, has also suggested on air that she has financed her radio station out of the "hard-earned proceeds from selling foreign press accreditations". Col Milutinovic was sacked as army spokesman after falling foul of Sonja last year by publicly questioning her level of education (she failed to complete her medical degree). He still manages to get away with cheeky remarks, and some relatively open discussion programmes, because his station, Radio Krajina, broadcasts from the safety of a well-guarded base in Banja Luka. Radio Krajina survives because the army is not

totally under the control of the SDS. As an offshoot of the old Yugoslav army, it has parallel allegiance to Belgrade and the Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic. In the cracks between Belgrade and the SDS stronghold of Pale, people like Colonel Milutinovic are able to function. "Occasionally, a dissenting voice can be heard on some of the local Serb stations," said Mark Wheeler, an analyst in Sarajevo for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting. "But the spectrum of acceptable views is extremely narrow. It is either pro-Karadzic or pro-Milosevic."

Radio Krajina may be a lone example of an independent broadcaster in Serb territory, but that is one more than in Croat areas, which rely totally on Croation radio and television, HRT. The HRT's half-hourly programme on the Bosnian elections focuses

Questions have been raised about where Karadzic got the money for her radio station

almost entirely on the Croation Democratic Union, Zagreb's ruling party. In Muslim-controlled areas, there are independent radio and television stations in most big cities. Even the state-controlled media makes an occasional stab at objective reporting, but it is coming under increasing pressure from the ruling SDA. International attempts to spread Bosnia's limited press freedoms across the country have had only limited success. The Free Election Radio Network (FERN) — the Swiss-sponsored station now being half-jammed by Radio Sonja — carries music and public information broadcasting, but Croats and Serbs view it as a foreign imposition. More ambitious is a £7.3 million Open Broadcast Network being co-ordinated by the international community's high representative in Bosnia, Carl Bildt. Plagued by technical delays and the entrenched resistance of all three nationalist parties, it finally launched on Saturday, a week before elections, with a live broadcast of a Tina Turner concert and some election news.



Muslims at an election rally in Bihac, north-west of Sarajevo, wave flags in support of President Alija Izetbegovic, the Party of Democratic Action's candidate in the September 14 Bosnian presidential poll. PHOTOGRAPH: BRANISLAV POPLUK

Belgium's wealthy north shuns south as economic tables turn

In the second of a series on separatism in Europe, Stephen Bates in Brussels reports on the Flemings and the Walloons

THE commonest car sticker in Brussels displays the red, gold and black national flag and announces defiantly: "United Belgiums We Will Remain". That it does so in three languages — French, Flemish and German — gives a clue to the tensions it seeks to defuse in a country barely 200 miles across and 100 from top to bottom. Belgium is preoccupied with separatist tendencies, at least as far as the Flemish north is concerned. "Everything in Belgium has a linguistic dimension," a Flemish friend said. "And if there isn't one already, we'll find it."

Even the current paedophile scandal, which has done much to unite the country in horror and grief, has a regional subtext. All the accused and all the victims until last week were Walloons — French speakers from the south and east. The discovery of the bodies of two Flemish teenagers buried under a worksite in Charleroi, the chief suspect, Marc Dutroux, added a new dimension. While An and Sofje were still missing, the Flemish papers gave them priority over Melissa and Julie, the eight-year-olds whose abduction transfixed the Walloon community and whose discovery, buried in another of

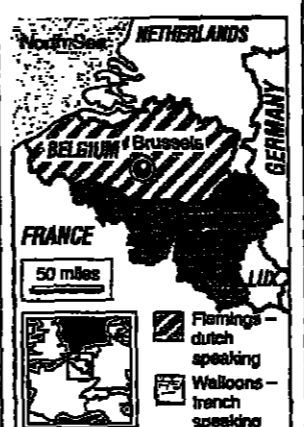
alist Vlaams Blok calls openly for independence for Flanders, but the more moderate parties also want greater devolved powers. The call centres on winning control of the social security budget. For the first 150 years of the Belgian state, the Walloons — with heavy industry based on the mines and steel works of Liege, Namur and Charleroi — economically supported the farmers of Flanders. In the last 20 years, hi-tech industries have expanded in Flanders, while industrial plants in the south have decayed. As well as an unemployment problem, Wallonia has an ageing population and a more socialist, interventionist tradition. The Flemish pay an estimated £2.6 billion a year to support the south.

Mr Dutroux's back garden, caused a national outpouring of emotion. The Flemish north — geographically smaller but now with a slightly larger population — is exercising its new economic superiority, after many years of inferiority to the Walloons. Hugo Schiltz, the mayor of Antwerp, Belgium's second city, which is in Flanders, said: "Many Flemings feel that our contribution to Wallonia is too high. I am a citizen of Belgium but my nationality is Flemish." From the Francophone side, Jean Stengers, a former professor of history at the University of Liege in Brussels, said: "There is a deepening ditch between the two communities, different cultural and political elites. They lead separate lives, read different newspapers, watch their own television channels. We are condemned to live together but always to be in conflict."

curity and the fiscal system. If that goes to the regions, Belgium effectively ceases to exist. "Before 2000, Wallonia will have to accept a degree of separation. If not, Belgium will explode, violently perhaps."

Mr Stengers said: "Absolutely no one is talking about separation in Wallonia. The feeling is that they will suffer financially and there is also a sense of humiliation at being treated like beggars. There is increasing resentment." Thomas Tindemans, a political adviser and lawyer in Brussels and son of the former prime minister Leo Tindemans, said: "For the moment it could be that Flanders is contributing more but a few years ago it was the other way round. How do you keep a nation together if everyone complains about helping the others?" At the heart of the separatist dilemma is the almost certainly insuperable problem of Brussels. It is surrounded by Flemish-speaking areas. Flanders claims it as its capital. But 85 per cent of its population speaks French. The Brussels do not identify much with either the Flemish or the Walloons. But neither side could cede control of the capital. Mr Stengers believes an even greater force will keep Belgium together: the huge national debt. "Our debt is the greatest cement for national unity. Trying to divide it would mean the collapse of Belgian economic credibility."

Next: The Spanish approach



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Johnnie Walker

IRAQ CRISIS: Arabs linked to CIA-backed body appeal to Washington for asylum • Iran warns of humanitarian crisis

Abandoned and fearing for their lives

Members of an anti-Saddam group holed up in Salahuddin spoke to Jonathan Randall, before the fall of Sulaymaniyah

TWO hundred Iraqi Arabs who have connections to the CIA-backed opposition to President Saddam Hussein are holed up in the mountain resort of Salahuddin after fleeing the city of Irbil when Iraqi troops seized it 10 days ago. They are convinced that they will be killed by Baghdad's secret police and during our interview several of them appealed to the United States for political asylum.

The men — renegade army officers, engineers and other professionals who are members of the US-financed Iraqi National Congress — said they were running out of money. They were short of blankets and most were sleeping outside in the increasingly chilly late summer nights. They said neither the United Nations nor the Red Cross had visited them.

They felt betrayed and abandoned — convinced that Baghdad's secret police were lurking outside their HQ

tion to President Saddam since the Gulf war in 1991. President Saddam's thrust into the formerly protected Kurdish zone broke up the CIA-funded operation and the handful of CIA officers stationed in Irbil fled. It is not clear whether the men here were full-time employees of the CIA operation, or part of a military force mustered by the Iraqi National Congress to police potential ceasefire between warring Kurdish factions.

The committee members insisted their doubts were justified in the light of the KDP's alliance with Baghdad to capture Irbil from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. "We cannot tolerate any Iraqi secret police in Irbil, much less in Salahuddin," a top KDP official said. He conceded, however, that in the immediate wake of the capture of Irbil, the Iraqi secret police "had exploited an opportunity" before his party insisted they stop.



Kurdish fighters with the Baghdad-backed KDP on their advance yesterday to Sulaymaniyah, the key city they later captured from the rival PUK

Feuding Kurds get cold comfort from West as aid operation dies

hoping to craft a structure to prevent the Iraqi president from consolidating his authority over Kurdistan. They admit frankly that they do not know whether the tactical alliance between Baghdad and Massoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) will endure. For the moment, Washington and London's policy is to reconcile the rival forces of the KDP and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), whose divisions are probably a larger one — because of refugees from the latest fighting.

Although American aid workers were ordered to flee last week, "there is no doubt that there will be a continuing humanitarian mission — probably a larger one — because of refugees from the latest fighting," a Washington diplomat involved in the reassessment told the Guardian yesterday. "But the framework for the operation is now clearly obsolete."

months to close Operation Provide Comfort, and to reopen the Iraqi oil pipeline into Turkey. Until President Saddam's latest incursion, the protective air patrols had been cut back from 90 flights a day to four. Turkey has also increasingly taken over the ground patrols from the original US, French and British forces, despite Kurdish complaints that these patrols have become a cover for Turkish anti-guerrilla operations.

Iran yesterday appealed for aid to assist Iraqi Kurd refugees from the fighting, saying they would have to be housed in border camps, state-run Tehran radio said. It quoted Ahmad Hosseini, Tehran's top official in charge of refugees, as saying Iran would allow countries and international organisations to provide relief to the border camps.



Island dispute unites Chinese

movement, which usually focuses on mobilising protest against Beijing. Thousands of Chinese marched through Hong Kong over the weekend, burning a Japanese flag to celebrate the anniversary of the Japanese military victory in Taiwan. In Taiwan, the opposition New Party plans to form an international Chinese alliance to counter Japanese claims.

The situation has put Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, and the Chinese Communist Party in a dilemma. Both claim to represent Chinese nationalism but are loath to jeopardise economic ties with Japan. The risks are high for Beijing, where nationalism has replaced communism as the dominant creed but where anti-government protests, like the student movements of 1987 and 1989, often begin as patriotic.

Cali greets end of drug boom with impoverished glee

empty cafes and the shell of the Harley Davidson dealership that once showcased the biggest, fastest motorcycles. Even before the last alleged capo of the Cali drug cartel, Helmer "Pacho" Herrera, turned himself in to police last week, the city had been feeling the effects of the cartel's collapse.

Without them, this city of 1.8 million is suffering withdrawal pains exacerbated by a national economic downturn. The number of companies in concordia, a sort of bankruptcy, is five times the level of previous years. "Cali's unemployment rate has more than doubled in the past 18 months, reaching the highest level in eight years.

All this unemployment is truly worrying," said Eduardo Fernandez de Soto, editor of El Pais, the city's leading newspaper. "Now, these people could go bad and start stealing."

Residents are eager to shed Cali's image as the world's drug capital and become known for the 30 multinational companies with manufacturing plants in the city. Business leaders speak of the need to export and to modernise the nearby Buenaventura port.

"We were in an unreal situation," said Luis Cahon, editor of El Pais, the city's leading newspaper. "Now, these people could go bad and start stealing."

Mr Cahon also noted that the city has become more peaceful. "The psychology of violence has decreased," he said. "Drug traffickers used to play their music as loud as they wanted and go tearing through the streets in those Toyotas. Society tolerated the drug traffickers out of fear."

mark anniversary

The islands control valuable fishing waters and potential gas reserves, but nationalism is at the heart of the dispute. In Hong Kong, the most passionate defenders of Chinese claims to the islands are leaders of the colony's democratic

Army embraced at Rorke's Drift

THE last time the British army was at Rorke's Drift they were easy to spot in bright red jackets, shiny buttons and white pith helmets. Now they wear khaki green but still look odd in a place little changed since they fought the Zulus more than a century ago.

day each year," said Capt Dickinson, wearing a T-shirt from the B Rorke's Drift Company of the Royal Regiment of Wales. "We sit down every year to watch Zulu," he said, referring to the 1963 film starring Michael Caine that immortalised the battle.

"I was worried we'd be seen as reliving empire links and glorifying the past, but there was no problem at all," he said. "This is certainly not an act of atonement, it is a humanitarian project."

But the symbolism of returning to put something into a needy community, finally free of the white rule the British army cemented, has not gone unnoticed. "In Zulu custom after two boys fight they become friends. If one is hurt the other cleans the wounds he has caused," Prince Gideon Zulu said welcoming the unit. "We fought the British, but today we are friends."

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Growing out of opposition
Unions can help to lead Britain out of the wilderness

IF THERE is to be an extended "cooling off" period in industrial relations it ought to apply first to ministerial threats made during the run-up to a general election.

Doesn't Mr Lang realise that, partly thanks to his own party's labour reforms (plus a heavy dose of unemployment), the problem of strikes has all but disappeared? Sure there are one or two high-profile disputes at the moment - like the railways and the Post Office - but neither is primarily about inflation-busting pay settlements and both are well advertised in advance enabling industry and commuters to make alternative plans.

Strikes may be waning but industrial relations still need to be improved radically if unions are (as John Monks aptly said yesterday) to "grow out of opposition" and prove they can help the country's future.

A better balance needs to be struck between the undoubted right of unions to strike and the responsibilities they

have both to their own companies and to the economy at large. Tony Blair is clearly looking at what he yesterday called "sensible" ways in which public sector disputes could be resolved.

There is another way unions could improve their image. They have been absolutely right to campaign for a minimum wage, but there has been a conspicuous absence of unions saying that they won't try to preserve their differentials once the low paid have been given a much needed boost.

A doomed dialogue of the deaf

Is there any serious point in Senator Mitchell staying on?

A POLL published in Dublin yesterday found that 63 per cent of the Northern Ireland population believe that the province's talks process will end in failure.

While the talks were in abeyance for the summer it was possible for their absence to breed illusion. It was conceivable that Jilly's sectarian pettiness might be put to one side when the participants reconvened this week.

What happened at Stormont gives cause only for gloomy realism. Yesterday's early break-up of the session - the talks got bogged down within minutes - offered a clear signal that the Democratic Unionists are set on a long-term disruptive approach which the other parties do not know how to counter.

the talks (both parties are, in the jargon, close to the loyalist paramilitaries). Yesterday he delivered his ultimatum and then left for Canada. Not much sign of give and take there.

But then give and take has never been Mr Paisley's game. He is an exclusive not an inclusive politician. He wants to marginalise the paramilitaries, partly because they threaten his votes, but mainly because his real target is Sinn Féin. If he can get the DUP and UDP out, Mr Paisley believes, it will be much harder for the British and Irish governments to finesse Gerry Adams into the process on the back of some sort of ceasefire.

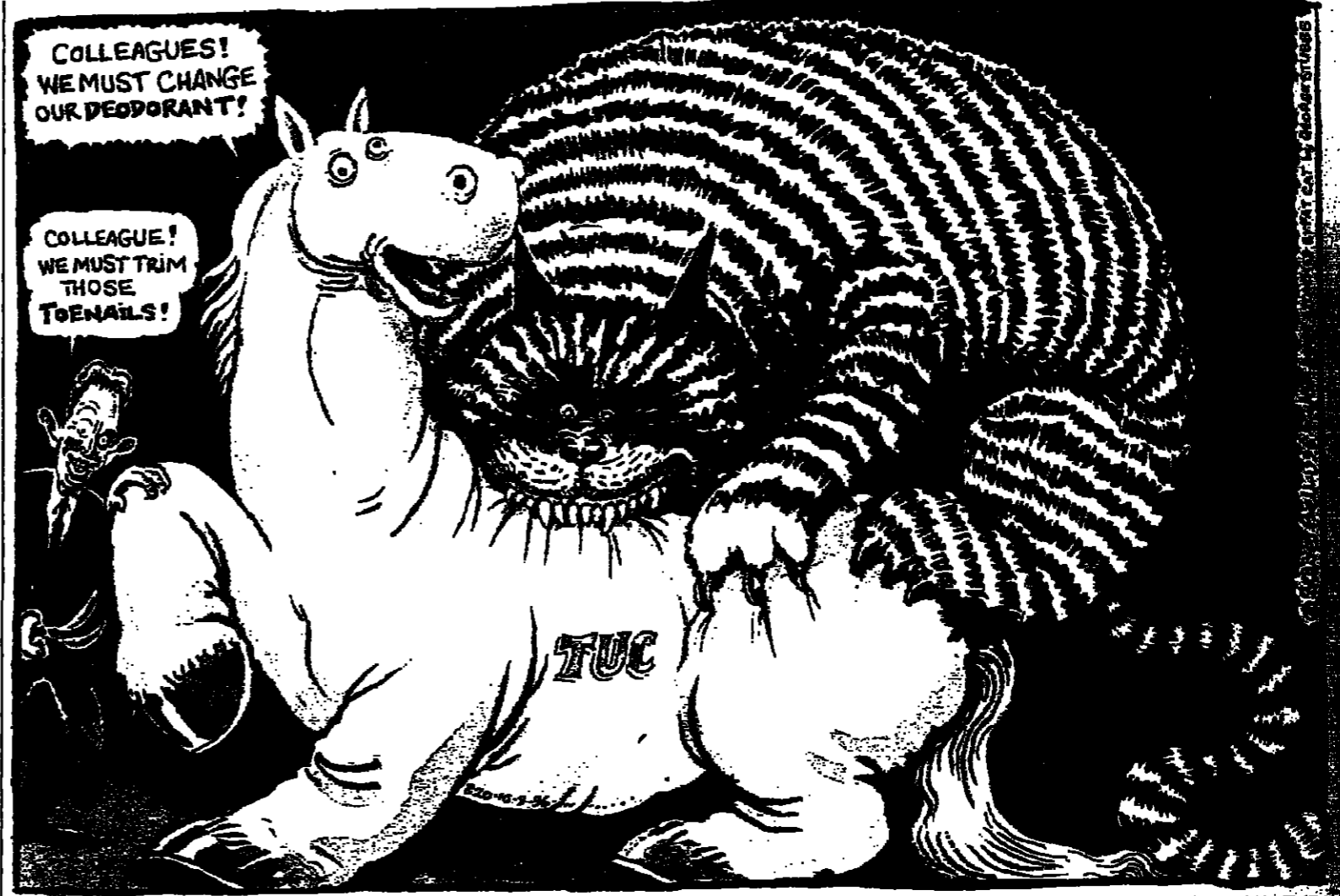
It is a mark of the bankruptcy of the current process that Mr Paisley should even bother to make such a suggestion. For there is not a shred of evidence that the two governments (especially the British) have either the intention or the ability to achieve such an objective.

The ethics of cloud-capped towers

Extra tall skyscrapers are not about economics, but egos

SCEPTICS will say it confirms only one fact: Britain's membership of the Third World. Plans were unveiled yesterday for Britain's biggest skyscraper. The proposed 1,200 ft Millennium Tower on the site of London's Baltic Exchange would be Europe's tallest building and even 15 feet higher than New York's Empire State.

Ideally there should be no skyscrapers in central London, not because they are nasty but because Europe's historic cities should not need to imitate America. Paris demonstrates the success of rigorous planning rules which push all highrise buildings to the periphery.



Letters to the Editor

Unions: the way forward

IT'S TUC week and the Guardian splashes on proposals from the New Labour Party to restrict the rights of workers and their unions (Union anger at Labour no-strike proposal, September 9).

However, it fails to show how far trade union membership has changed. In the private sector, union organisation has, by and large, collapsed. The economic group most likely to be union members are white collar professionals with a high degree of education - a middle-class elite in protected employment.

There has been an enormous growth in casual, short-term employment which has been predominantly low paid. What do unions affiliated to the TUC have to offer? Many elements in the TUC oppose any form of low paid protection.

TUC unions have priced themselves out of the market with their high subscriptions and seem to offer nothing but discounts on insurance and loans. What is needed is a return to the practices of the early 20th century - organise

at the workplace, taking on the employers with all the aggression needed and flouting the law whenever necessary. Kevin Brandstatter, Industrial Workers of the World, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA.

GEOFF Mulgan recommends a body (employe mutual) which performs the function of a trade union (Unions' future in mutual satisfaction, September 3) but calls itself something else under the guise of regaining "public trust".

Another alternative might be the "chambers of labour", parallel bodies to chambers of industry and commerce in Austria, Germany and Lux-

embourg. These not only function as workers' parliament but also as adjuncts to trade union organisations through the provision of legal representation and employee rights. Jim Sweeney, 21 Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6QY.

AMUTUAL society, whatever that means, would not be an effective bargaining organisation nor would it be an effective defence organisation, guarding pay levels, working conditions and training provision.

This does not mean that co-operation between those selling their labour and those buying it is not desirable. In this country, co-operation between the two sides is woefully inadequate to produce the efficiency and stability needed for our economy.

Catholic tastes: the Pope, conservatism and adultery

IN Simon Hattenstone's feature (God's own scriptwriter, September 6), a statement is made, attributed to a bookseller, that Karol Wojtyla's (John Paul II) play, Our Lord's Brother, has never been published in English. This is not true.

I happen to be the translator (yes, appointed by that very Commission for the Writings of Karol Wojtyla) of all his plays. The play in question has been translated (under the title Our God's Brother) and published in The Collected Plays and Writings of Karol Wojtyla, University of California Press.

As far as I know, the book is still in print in view of Mr Hattenstone's assertion. I tried the British Library. No luck! It seems I shall have to present them with one of my own copies.

Simon Hattenstone asserts that Pope John Paul II is "widely regarded as one of the most conservative popes this century". I do not dispute that the "conservative" label, misguidedly in my opinion, has been applied to the current pontiff. That much is accepted. However, the reference is towards ecclesiastical conservatism, not political.

Two quite different areas. To "reveal" Karol Wojtyla as having socialist tendencies in his political thought, will come as very little surprise to anybody who has taken the time to study him. Greg Murphy, Editor, Catholic Times, First Floor, St James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6PP.

READ Simon Hattenstone's account of Pope John Paul II's play and plans to turn it into a film with interest and a degree of sympathy. But I was disappointed at some of its assumptions.

Apart from the difference in age and circumstances between the student who wrote the play and the middle-aged archbishop who became Pope, the Pope's sense of his accountability before God and history for the Church's fidelity to the Gospel mean he is unlikely to think and write now - or even in 1978 when he was first elected as he thought and wrote in the 1940s. Hattenstone does not allow

himself to ponder why a certain kind of conservatism and the Pope's office might go ineluctably together. And his position is hardly strengthened by the reference to John Paul II's condemnation of "adultery of the heart". Has he never read the teaching of Jesus: "You have learnt how it was said: 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28)? (P) Bruce Bradley SJ, Headmaster, Clongowes Wood College, Naas, Co Kildare.

The secret's out

I WAS pleased to see Jack Straw reaffirming Labour's commitment to a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act (Our secret society, September 5). I hope he will soon also be able to repeat the commitment made before the last election by his predecessor, Roy Hattersley, that this reform would be introduced in the first year of a new government.

FOI is particularly suitable for swift implementation. Draft legislation already exists and was examined by Parliament in detail when Mark Fisher's Right to Know Bill was debated for 21 hours in 1993. The government's "Open Government" code of practice, while falling well short of legislation, will have prepared Whitehall for change and put some of the infrastructure in place.

Unlike some constitutional reforms, FOI is relatively uncontroversial in party terms. It would also be relatively cheap and highly popular, enjoying 81 per cent of the public's support, more than any other constitutional reform, according to a 1995 poll.

By acting immediately on freedom of information, a new administration could signal from the outset that it was seeking to bind itself to high standards in office and break the habits of secrecy that have caused so much cynicism in the past. Maurice Frankel, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9AX.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Bare necessity

HAS the Church of England Dean and Chapter of Durham finally taken leave of its senses (Durham's revelation, September 7)? £188,000 for a piece of "artistic" ephemera which will have been forgotten a day after it has been dismantled.

The charity with which I am involved was congratulating itself when it received a grant from the Church Urban Fund of about £40,000 towards accommodation for the homeless. And yet the same church can blow nearly five times that on a transitory display.

The Dean might just as well have piled £50 notes outside the cathedral and set light to them - at least that would have provided some warmth for a few homeless people. Iain Mackenzie-Jarvis, Director, Emmaus UK, 27 Perowne Street, Cambridge.

WHAT'S all this fuss about an image of a naked man floating about in Durham Cathedral? The first book of Genesis states quite clearly that "God created man in his own image", and since the definition of "image" is "a double" or "a copy", it follows quite logically that God has genitals too. So if visitors to the cathedral find such body parts offensive, they know who to complain to when next offering up their prayers. Edward Johnson, 12 Horbury Crescent, London W11 3NF.

Ace service on the forecourt

SO Safeway and BP are to combine in a network of petrol-and-fuel shops (Safeway and BP in link-up, September 7)? I hope BP's "forecourt skills" will take into account my extreme reluctance to tramp a mile to pay for the petrol.

It also irritates me to have to wait for somebody taking an age to pay - or to shop and pay - with his car preventing my use of the pumps. How about a drive-through pay arrangement, the exit leading to the shop? I buy petrol in £15 or £20 lots, pay cash and, depending on circumstances, move the car before making the trudge to the counter.

I'm a saint, I know. BP could start a trend back to service-based forecourts. I would be happy to pay a bit more to help provide jobs. I Clark, Furnell Avenue, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TX.

On Scotland's unsettled will

MICHAEL White's analysis of Scottish Labour's recent convulsions on a referendum on devolution (The Scottish conundrum, September 7) revealed a superficial grasp of the subject.

The Scottish Constitutional Convention was not founded in 1991, but in 1989, after the A Claim of Right document and SNP's Govan-by-election victory in 1988; Michael Forsyth was appointed Scottish Secretary not in 1994, but 1995 - his first year being dominated by the success of his "tartan tax" offensive.

However, the most damning error is the assertion that, in the 1978 referendum, "devolution was rejected by voters"; it was actually narrowly won, but blocked by the 40 per cent rule.

The referendum debacle reveals the fundamental fault-lines in the "British" Labour coalition. Both Scottish and British Labour have profoundly inaccurate views of themselves, each other, their uneasy relationship, and Scottish politics in general, which have been exposed by this crisis.

This meant that Scottish Labour's involvement in the Constitutional Convention, a supposed expression of popular sovereignty, never allowed for the underwriting of any devolution scheme by the most obvious form of popular sovereignty: a referendum.

Scottish Labour's belief in its own uniqueness has been punctured by New Labour. The Constitutional Convention was never going to be implemented carte blanche by a Labour Government. Now it could be irrelevant to Blair's devolution plans.

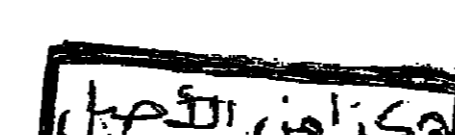
New Labour's policy changes have re-affirmed where power really lies in the party and, in the process, blown up a few of the comfortable and cosy myths about Scottish politics: for that at least we can be grateful. Gerry Haasan, 29 Moray Place, Strathbungo, Glasgow G4 1EL.

ALTHOUGH I was born in Scotland, I am opposed to Scottish national separatism in all its forms.

A common nationalism for everybody seems best to me; and I cannot understand why one of the Unionist leaders does not propose this. E G Macfarlane, 106 Fortbill Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 8DR.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: We often pass through the area where the River Parrett rises in the southernmost part of the county on the border with Dorset. It is an unassuming place with gentle slopes, cows and cider orchards. The signposts are a delight. They point to Haselbury Plucknett, East Coker, Hardington Mandeville, Misterton, Mosterton and North Perrott. The Parrett wiggles unobtrusively about for a while before setting decisively out, straight North-west across more than 50 miles of Somerset. It takes flood water off the levels, and finds its way towards the Bristol Channel at Bridgewater, which was once a major port. I stopped this time at Haselbury Plucknett, having read of some remarkable happenings in this village named after a 19th century Breton "de Pluguenet". Red and yellow hamstone cottages are ranged along each side of the main road and a little grass triangle with an old iron bench is set beside it. I could not at first find the church. It is some way off centre, down a curving, gravelly and stony track, past a big willow, and stands in a spacious, well-wooded churchyard, lush with grass and dandelions and thick with stone tombs and gravestones that lean at all angles. The exterior is impressive and the Parochial Church Council believes in keeping the door open. The inside is a surprisingly bland open space; the arcades were removed in 1990 to join the aisles and nave. So the effect is the reverse of what I was looking for, because my source (Somerset, the Complete Guide) tells of the castle hermit of Haselbury Plucknett, St Wulfrie, who arrived in 1126 and lived in a cell on the North side of the chancel. He wore chain mail and took cold baths. His reputation for healing and prophesy spread, and the Kings Henry I and Stephen visited him here. But I could find no trace or reference. This is a reticent part of the country. JOHN VALLINS



Diary
Matthew Norman

SOMETHING strange has befallen one of British journalism's more splendid institutions: it is now possible, it seems, to book a slot on the letters page of the Times long in advance. On behalf of a 24-charity coalition, Mencap issued a press release last week announcing that a letter of protest, about underfunding in Community Care, will be delivered to Ken Clarke tomorrow. "The letter, also published in the Times today..." says the release, referring in fact to tomorrow but sent out last Friday. Good God, how can this be? "The Times said they would publish it," Mencap press officer Frances Tuke explains, "as long as they had it exclusively." Well, well, who'd have thought that the old Thunderer's letters page would succumb to the tactics of the tabloids? My attempt to reserve the witty *opéra* slot (bottom left) for November 25, for a waspish little effort on the 96's high rainfall (so much for global warming!) have thus far failed. Even so, what a swizz... and whatever next for the Times in its lurch down-market? How long can it be, shocked observers ask themselves today, before the paper starts slashing its cover price, like a saucy salesman in a street market?

AT THE TUC conference in Blackpool yesterday, delegates were treated to a presentation by journalist and psephologist Peter Kellner, on how membership could be revived. Using charts, films and polling evidence, he explained that, although the public like the unions' aims and beliefs, they can't be done with nasty old strikes, and called on the TUC to find ways to attract 5,000,000 potential unionists, many of them lapsed members. What Mr Kellner forgot to add is that his own NUJ membership lapsed in 1991, but Arthur Scargill found this out anyway, and took the rostrum to invite Mr Kellner to join the union which he had joined in its place (an invitation he has yet to accept).

ALSO banging the drum for the workers yesterday, meanwhile, was that model employer, the Independent. In a main leader headlined "Wake up, unions, there's a mighty job to do", it bemoaned emasculating employment legislation and resultant job insecurity, declaring: "Today, just as 100 years ago, employees should be joining trade unions to find security." Perhaps the paper's deputy editor Colin Hughes, sewerer of countless sackings under Gentleman Charlie Wilson, helped write it. As for David Montgomery, he has yet to accept our offer to publish a statement calling upon all Mirror Group staff to join the NUJ. Monty couldn't make it to the phone yesterday, so we expect his message of solidarity some time today.

THE prospect of Carry On-style hilarity looms in Bourne-mouth. The Lloyds Hotel has placed an advert in gay journal *The Pink Paper*, stressing its proximity to the Triangle, a well known gay club in the town. However, when a punter rang to enquire after rooms for next month, he was told that the hotel was being taken over wholesale for Conference week by the Tory party.

RARE shard of controversy pierces the serenity of New Zealand's parliament, where legislation concerning Maori land rights has recently been passed. The opposition Conservative party opposed the bill, which gives Maoris the right to charge rent on leased land, but in a shock manoeuvre, Labour managed to push it through: when Conservative leader Trevor Rogers nipped out for two minutes for a pee, Labour invoked a fast track procedure, and with the chamber bereft of the sole opponent needed to stop it, it went.

AN invitation has arrived to a media workshop in Hertfordshire. "I will not attend," says the delete-as applicable line, "the Round-table Discussion on 'Acres of the Real Cost' over lunch." Will not, it think.

ONE DAY, SON, ALL THIS WILL BE SIR NORMAN FOSTER'S.

Therapy needed for this tax neurosis

Commentary
Hugo Young

TAX is the great bogus issue of post-socialist politics. In both Britain and America, each in the middle of an election, it is where the argument is most self-righteous, and purports to be most specific. Here's where Bob Dole and Bill Clinton, almost exactly echoed by John Major and Tony Blair, imagine the floating voter is most vulnerable to seduction or alarm. What none of them can confront is its real emptiness as a matter of dispute. The people no longer see it in the way they, the taxpayers and spenders, are locked into imagining.

salvation. The issue is not promise but belief. Disbelief is the chronic condition of the British too. For their autumn manoeuvres the leaders are devoting vast resources to proving something there is no reason to suppose enough people are ever likely to accept.

They won't be persuaded by cooked-up presentations. What matters is what they feel and know. General insecurity contributes far more to their condition than the outer refinements of income tax. For Tory politicians still beset by the failure of their 1700-per-family to bring its just rewards in the feel-good factor, I offer this as one explanation, in the hope that they will stop whingeing and stop filling our pages with claims nobody needs to hear.

into other agendas, causing appalling deformities. Such is Blair's tax obsession, for example, that his cabinet is casting voracious eyes on the billion quid it thinks it might make from a quick sale of Channel Four: an achievement whose political value in itself would be minus zero.

would be unwise to designate them as such. The shared neurosis, which requires every word about tax to be wrapped in the most contorted reservations, ensures that they have some way to go before crossing even a modest credibility threshold.



Crisis in the greenery

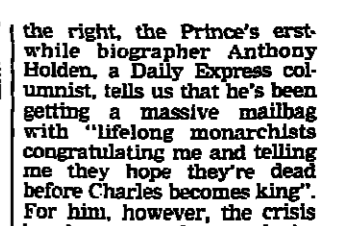
Why can't Britain's Greens succeed like they do elsewhere? John Vidal argues that it's a combination of being crushed between the media and the big parties — and their internecine squabbling

PARTY the Greens, or any small political party which thinks it has a halfway decent pudding to serve before the electorate at the next election. Without an immensely rich, high-profile sugar daddy like Sir James Goldsmith to invent, support, or at least subvert their cause, their chances of even being allowed access to the electorate are minimal.

phrase "Blairchism" is circulating and feel that now more than ever there is room for a radical, modern political party untainted by old, failed ideas and that is in touch with the street. The best they can do in 1997, they argue, is to use the system which will allow them one massy TV broadcast to advertise for new members. The logic is that fighting a losing battle simply recycles despondency.

that they are reflecting a new idealism in the streets. And anyone listening to the passionate debate about ethics or democracy at this year's (very big) Big Green Gathering or goes to the meetings of direct action group Earth First! will recognise a new vitality and eagerness to achieve grassroots political change. In terms of the cynical established party machinery it seems naive at times, but no one should deny that it's fresh and informed by real experience rather than party dogma or passed down by elders or betters as the authoritarian word.

The impotence behind the throne



Beatrix Campbell

A MOOD doth not a movement make. The rise and fall of republicanism is one of the great idiosyncrasies of British politics. The rise and rise of discontent with the royals is not attributable to republican feeling. Another mystery. How are we to explain the contradiction between the royals' remarkable loss of legitimacy and the lack of a mass movement for reform?

The detour has been the sexual politics of the royal family. What parliamentarians and the press dubbed soap opera is actually the stuff of life. The reform of relations between men and women is one of the great themes of our time: it is the source of seismic shifts in civil society. Not surprisingly civil society understands how deadly that must have been. It was her suffering, rather than her terrible taste in men, that bonded Princess Diana to millions of women and men when she died that 20th-century thing, tell her story. It was post-Panorama civil society that also saw that she was in danger from her — and our — enemy, the Establishment.

PHILIP HALL is the author of *Family Fortune*, which audited the costs and benefits of the monarchy and showed that it costs us a fortune. He is sceptical about a republican future: "We should not be surprised that there is a mass movement against the monarchy. When it was really in danger, after the first world war, Labour rushed to help and backed away from any kind of republicanism. The monarchy exists because of the Labour Party."

Advertisement for WALLGUARD damp proofing system. The text reads: "RISING DAMP? TACKLE IT WITH WALLGUARD. A SYSTEM IN PRACTICE FOR OVER 60 YEARS. The Wallguard ceramic tube system of damp proofing has been in use in ancient and famous buildings for many years. A prime example is Westminster Abbey in which the system was first fitted in 1932 — and was recently added to by Wallguard." It includes a list of features, a diagram of the system, and contact information for Wallguard Ltd.

Harald Penrose

An Everest in the skies

THE DOYEN of British test pilots, Harold "Hal" Penrose, who died aged 92, was the first man to fly higher than the highest point on earth. It was in late 1922 and early 1923 that Penrose tested the open-cockpit Westland Westland PV3 biplane. Financed by Lady Houston, the aeronautical philanthropist and supported by the Air Ministry, the PV3 was intended for an attempt to fly over the 29,029 feet peak of Mount Everest in the Himalayas. Thus did he fly to 35,000 feet over Dorset. Thanks to Penrose's test flying, the aerial conquest of Everest was accomplished on April 3, 1933 by two Westland biplanes flown by the Marquis of Clydesdale and D F McIntyre. A documentary film, *Wings Over Everest*, followed.

Penrose was also an aeronautical engineer, author and historian. During 23 years as Westland Aircraft's chief test pilot, he tested and flew nearly 400 aircraft types, including all of the company's prototypes and flying boats, airliners, autogyros and helicopters. His five-volume *British Aviation*, which he wrote over 13 years, is a classic, a testimony to his life in the industry and to his determination that its story should be chronicled first-hand.

Penrose had his first flight as a 15-year-old in 1919, studied aeronautical engineering at London University, and joined Westland in Yeovil in 1926 as a designer-technician. A year later he learned to fly in the Reserve of Air Force Officers and in 1928 was appointed manager of Westland's civil aircraft department, also gaining a commercial-class pilot's licence. In 1931 he became chief test pilot, a position he held until 1933.



The ascent of man ... Harald Penrose (centre) with fellow Westland test pilots

PHOTOGRAPH QUADRANT PICTURE LIBRARY

Joyce Plesters

Secrets of the old masters

JOYCE Plesters, who has died aged 99, played a central role in understanding the painting techniques of the old masters. As a conservation scientist at the National Gallery her work analysing paint samples revealed not only the materials used by artists and thus how to conserve their works but also added to the understanding of art history as a whole.

In 1949, after a science degree at Holloway College, London, she became the third member of the National Gallery's budding scientific department, where she remained until retirement in 1987. There she soon became skilled in the microanalytical identification of pigments and, crucially for the subsequent understanding of the techniques of the painters, a

pioneer in the analysis of pinhead sized cross-sections of painting structures, sampled at the very edge of areas of damage. Minute, barely visible without magnification, the samples are embedded in cubes of transparent resin. Subsequently they are ground, down and polished to reveal the build-up of grounds, underlayers, dense paints and glazes when viewed under the microscope.

Plesters researched into the vital areas of how painting techniques have changed over the last 700 years and, once the composition of a painting was known, how best to slow down the gradual deterioration of the materials used. Her expertise, refined technique and ever-increasing mastery in her field led to her being widely consulted by art museums worldwide.



Art through the microscope ... Joyce Plesters work in the National Gallery

Robert Lynn

A Scots world of anarchy

IT WAS the Glasgow anarchist group of the early 1970s which provided the most fruitful forum for the ideas of Robert Lynn, who died aged 72. Amidst a blossoming of literature and direct action, pamphlets bearing Robert Lynn's signature with titles like *Practical Anarchy* and *Why Vote?* were avidly read.

Born in the Calton in Glasgow's East End he left St Mungo's Academy at 14 and became a shipyard engineering apprentice. During the second world war, the influential shop stewards' committees were dominated by the Communist Party, but their policy of subordinating the workers' interest to those of the Soviet Union drew a withering fire from anarchists, Trotskyists and non-CP socialists. It was then that Robert Lynn began to study Bakunin's ideas and industrial syndicalism.

In the immediate post-war years Lynn's influence became increasingly irritating to both shipbuilding employers and communist-led union officials, and as a result he was blacklisted. Jobless, he became a Merchant Navy engineering officer and spent some years seeing the world — and enveloping himself in syndicalism and the ideas of Max Stirner.

Returning to Glasgow in the early 1950s, he threw himself into marriage, trade unionism and the Glasgow Anarchist Group. It was the only place in the world, as the writer and academic anarchist George Woodcock wrote, "where the egocentric philosophies of Max Stirner took root and were given popular expression."

THE ANARCHISTS had open forums in Glasgow's Renfrew Street alongside the Socialist Party of Great Britain, nationalists and Trotskyists who regularly debated — sometimes physically — and where ordinary working-class men and women passionately discussed the ideas of Feurbach, Clara Zetkin, Bakunin, Kropotkin and many others. Lynn revelled in his "university of life".

In the late 1950s the Glasgow Anarchist Group disintegrated, and its reorganisation was left to Lynn. He immersed himself in his local community of the Calton, where he and Jean, his constant companion, became well-loved characters. He went to work at Howden's engineering plant on the south side of Glasgow, while with the 1970s the anarchist group flourished. A great number of events were initiated by Lynn, especially the now traditional Glasgow anarchist summer school which attracts libertarian socialists from all over Britain.

Robert Lynn was generous to a fault. He did not suffer fools gladly but rarely had a bad word to say about anyone. He is survived by Jean and daughters Jean, Joan and Betty.

Robert Lynn, anarchist, born February 5 1924; died August 16 1996

Letters

Christopher Bell writes: Erskine Childers (obituary September 4) wrote the seminal 1902 book *The Road to Suez*, in which he did so much to open British eyes to the cause of the Palestinians. There was a major shift in the left's view of Israeli expansionism in the 1960s and 1970s, for which Childers' writing and advocacy can take much of the credit. He was also a brilliant broadcaster and a delegate and an education for young BBC World Service producers. A few of his later programmes on African matters caused tremors in Whitehall and the occasional unsolicited suggestion that he be dropped. Happily, World Service management firmly resisted such pressure.

Terry Mullins writes: The great Bulgarian soprano Lyuba Welitsch (obituary September 3) made a poignant appearance on the 1960 Decca recording of *Die Fledermaus*. This gala performance, recorded in Vienna and conducted by Herbert von Karajan, had an interpolated sequence in which various opera luminaries on Decca's roster were brought on to sing a party piece. Right at the end came Welitsch singing an unforgettable *Vienna, City of my Dreams*.

Birthdays

Thomas Allen, operatic baritone, 52; Gee Armytage, jockey, 31; Babbet Cole, children's writer, 47; Diana Colegate, novelist, 65; Beryl Cook, painter, 70; Louise Coll, former ambassador to Costa Rica, 61; Brian Donohue, Labour MP, 48; Ted Edgar, show jumper, 58; John Entwistle, rock guitarist, 52; Judy Geeson, actress, 48; Prof Chevalier Herbert Gilles, authority on tropical medicine, 76; Christopher Hogwood, harpsichordist, 55; The Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, 67; Norman Morrice, choreographer, 65; Lord Nolan, arbiter of standards in public life, 68; Arnold Palmer, golfer, 67; Denis Richards, air historian, 86; Dame Betty Riddley, former Church Commissioner, 87; Dr Brian Smith, chairman, BAA, 89; Prof Carol Weight, CH, painter and art teacher, 88; Robert Wise, film director and producer, 82; Fay Wray, actress, 88.

Betty Read

The almoner's caseload

FROM 1947 to 1970 Betty Read, who has died aged 66, was head of the social work department of St Thomas's Hospital, London. With the coming of the National Health Service in 1948, she made the transition from being a "lady almoner", whose duties included asking patients to contribute towards their care, to becoming a medical social worker. And she provided the leadership that enabled her staff to evaluate their own strengths and to help sick and worried south Londoners do the same.

She was educated at Streatham High School and the London School of Economics. She worked as an almoner at the Westminster Hospital, as a tutor at the Institute of Almoners and soon after the war met American case workers on a transatlantic visit. At St Thomas's her intelligence and optimistic realism made her an inspired leader, encouraging her team and helping them to work creatively.

As a member of the Institute of Almoners she played an important role as it became part of the British Association of Social Workers, though she regretted the loss of some of the benefits of the earlier specialisation. Her influence on social work, rooted in her own caseload, was widespread.

She worked with Ben Ashbury in the evolution of the Family Welfare Association and with the projects of the Cicely Northcott Trust, which had been attached to St Thomas's from the early years of this century. She also supported the Christian charity L'Arche, which creates small communities for adults with learning difficulties.

As a committee member with various charities, and also more informally, she provided widely respected advice. Among the projects she supported was St Christopher's Hospice and thence the hospice movement. Several of the early grants to St Christopher's came through her recommendation. She became a member of its steering committee and subsequently a council member, serving for

Betty Read, medical social worker, born May 29 1910; died August 15 1996

Jackdaw



ANY religious organisation in the world is invited to enter their god. Only one entry religion is allowed. Onlookers may cheer for their god by offering prayers, songs, epithets or verbal abuse. The winning god will receive all money, possessions and property held by churches, organisations and representatives of the losing gods. In the eventuality that there is no winner, then all money, property and possessions of all the religions in the world will be turned over to a Committee of Common Sense for distribution to the betterment of conditions of all living creatures.

Virgin Impregnated: Gods of any sex are invited. They need not demonstrate any specific skill at love-making, or any parental responsibility. The virgin will be chosen by the Committee of Judges. The lady will be kept in total isolation for a period of three months prior to allowing the challenging god to accomplish this task. The virgin will be kept in isolation for a period of nine months. The child may be of any sexual orientation but should be observably human.

Corpses Raised: Any human corpse in a stage of putrefaction can be entered. The Committee of Judges will examine the body to verify that it is actually dead. The corpse will be locked in a private chamber, where it can be observed objectively. Absolutely no one will be allowed inside the chamber. The Committee of Judges will determine when the deceased is a cognisant human being again. Revitalising hibernating hamsters does not count. Choice of (a) Multitube Fed or (b) Sick Healed: This represents the practical part of the contest. Gods may pick A or B. A) Gods may choose to heal a

physically handicapped person, chosen by the Contest's Committee of Judges. This person will be an amputee. The god must be able to demonstrate, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the ability to perform a miraculous healing by making the missing limb grow back. B) Gods may choose to feed every starving person and creature in an impoverished nation, chosen by the Contest's Committee of Judges. The food must be abundantly apparent for one full year after the acceptance of this particular challenge.

Designer death
EXPERTS in inexpensive, green and DIY funerals, the National Death Centre helps people achieve the funeral of their choice. (Back garden burial, for example, has been legal since the Quakers were founded, although a corpse in the garden can deter house buyers.) It also organises Nat-

ural Death Salons where — over tea and cakes — you can plan your own funeral, from the invitations to the activities such as "group scribbling on the coffin" (like signing a plaster cast). Then there are the finer points of corpse care: "Tea-tree and lavender oils can stop deterioration, but it's still a good idea to turn the heating down." One therapist enthused about sharing the bed with the deceased: "It is really a beautiful thing. You can sleep with the body or watch television with it."

Prima lady
"WHEN I was first asked by Lindsay to be the guest editor of Prima's 10th Anniversary issue, I couldn't believe my

luck. I have always been fascinated by women's magazines and a fan of Prima. Editing it turned out to be even more interesting than I had expected... I chose to highlight three subjects. As a working mother I know just how important good child care is, so I wanted to focus on the work of the many after-school clubs in the UK. As a young barrister I've handled many cases of domestic violence and I therefore wanted to highlight the work of Refuge, which celebrates its 25th birthday this year. I also wanted to applaud the magnificent job that's being done every day of the week by the thousands of carers up and down the country — especially the children. As a keen knitter myself, I love the mother and daughter jumpers, which Kathryn and I will wear again and again. And I was delighted that Paul Costelloe was able to design my ideal dress for Prima readers — one that can be worn to work during the day and still look fantastic in the evening. Prima also solved another problem for me: how do you

produce a meal that's interesting and nutritious in 30 minutes? I have enjoyed every minute of my guest editorship, but most of all I enjoyed meeting Prima readers. They made me feel so welcome and we were able to share the difficulties of and delights of bringing up children, helping your partner and still finding time to fulfil yourself. The sharing, caring *Cherie Blair* introduces her guest edited October issue of Prima. It includes 101 Clever Cooking

Slippery pole
OVER TO London public relations agency Burson-Marsteller — the people who thought up the brand name "I can't believe it's not Butter" — where associate director Simon Tittley is bent on cleaning up their literary act. He recently issued a seven-page guidance memo to staff titled *Let's run this up the flagpole and see who salutes* — a guide to defeating PR jargon, gobbledegoek, buzz-words and clichés. He quotes the opening verses of the King James version of the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the earth. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light: if King James had given the

Drafting job to a PR agency argues Simon, it would probably have read like this: "At the outset, God's agenda was basically to focus on his core deliverables, namely two leading-edge products, a) Heaven and b) earth." However, the earth lacked an overall concept, and had a low profile in terms of its key audiences. Obviously the spirit of God had to step back and benchmark the existing waters before his game plan could get them the green light. "And God's key message was that light was a strategic objective, and it was covered off." It goes on: "So God branded the light 'day' and the darkness 'I Can't Believe It's Not Light.'" Stage Screen and Radio providing the leading edge on advertising activities. Thanks to Stephen Hopkins.

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Emily Sheffield



Robert Lynn
A Scots world of anarchy

Tuesday September 10 1996

Pointer to low inflation, page 12

BT's wounded watchdog, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Finance Guardian

Sterling silences his critics

P&O deal builds £2.6bn business

Lisa Buckingham

LORD Sterling yesterday fought back against recent criticism of his stewardship of the transport and property group P&O by sewing up an Anglo-Dutch merger to create the world's biggest container shipping group.

At one time, shares in P&O soared by 53p to 570p, a record for the year, before dropping back to 559½p, up 42½p, as the group said it would form a joint venture with Holland's

shipping lines operate "bus stop" services which commit them to a set schedule. This tends to mean their main response to competition is to cut charges to importers and exporters, thereby savaging their own margins.

A major part of the planned cost savings — estimated as likely to top £130 million a year after an initial \$65 million restructuring charge — will be the elimination of 400 jobs from the 9,400 worldwide workforce. Redundancies will be spread between the two companies, with about 250 in the UK.

The Nedlloyd venture comes as P&O prepares for co-operation talks with Stena on the cross-Channel route, where profits have been hammered by competition from Eurotunnel. Lord Sterling, who has promised asset disposals of £1 billion, said he

P&O	
Consolidated turnover	£2.6 bn
Net asset value	£1 bn
Joint fleet	112 ships
Net tonnage	2,900 mn
Merger savings	£130 mn p.a.
Charge carrying	2.3 ton ton p.a.
20ft container equivalents	
Nedlloyd	

would be disappointed if cost savings from the container ship merger were not significantly higher than those already identified.

Large new vessels, able to carry the equivalent of 6,500

containers, should help as they are about £85 a container cheaper to operate. But there will also be savings from eliminating route overlap and a number of the agencies around the world, and establishing a combined information technology system.

Questions remain about the ability of the container companies to renegotiate existing trade alliances. Both P&O and Nedlloyd already have global trade-sharing partnerships which will inevitably be disrupted by yesterday's deal.

Lord Sterling predicted, however, that the merger could be the first phase in a worldwide rationalisation of the container shipping business, rather like the shake-up in aviation a decade back.

He was convinced this "pro-active" agreement would be discussed in shipping boardrooms around the world. In

Notebook

Global banking for 21st century



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE decision by the Bank for International Settlements, the Basle-based central bankers' club, to widen its membership to include nine developing market countries, representing a critical milestone for the global economic order.

in effect, become the first global financial institution of the 21st century.

Sterling revival

WHAT a difference a deal makes. Just two months back, City gossip held that Lord Sterling — the autocratic and highly influential boss of P&O — would be lucky to hold on to his boardroom seat.

He was accused of taking an altogether too soft-hearted approach to the group's cargo shipping businesses and there were those who said he did not have the stomach for radical surgery.

But Sterling had already responded to investor discontent by signalling a withdrawal from bulk shipping. And anyone ready to lend an ear would have known he had been trying (on and off for years as it turns out) to secure a merger which would get the poorly performing container shipping business off P&O's books.

Morgan affair puts in-house deals in doubt

Paul Murphy and Richard Miles

MORGAN Grenfell's reputation as one of the country's most successful managers of company pension schemes is set to suffer "deep, long-term damage", one pension trustee said yesterday.

His prediction came as it emerged that about a quarter of the £1.4 billion caught in the investment bank's three stricken unit trusts came from pension funds managed "in-house" by Morgan.

Many investment professionals say that the affair — sparked by the discovery of possible irregularities in funds run by suspended manager Peter Young — will herald a review of the routine practice whereby pension fund managers in large, integrated investment houses direct a large portion of money under management into investment products run by other parts of the group.

Morgan Grenfell has had particular success over recent years in attracting pension contracts, with funds under management rising 40 per cent last year to about £14 billion. Clients range from Whitbread to the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund and Westminster City Council.

But several funds, including that of the public sector workers' union Unison, are said to have discovered that part of their money had been invested in the biggest of Mr Young's ill-fated unit trusts,

Chairman delivers mellow valediction to restive investors



Stepping down — and up... Sir Alastair Morton, left, and his successor, Robert Malpas

Eurotunnel begins to dig itself out of hole

Outlook

Simon Beavis

SIR Alastair Morton, the combative chairman of Eurotunnel, bade a gentle farewell to the company yesterday with the message: "My part of the job is done."

All a bit false, of course. Just as Sir Alastair is unlikely to mellow at this point in his career, he does not leave for another eight weeks and knows there is much to do before he can start a long-planned six-month holiday.

But after nearly 10 years battling to get one of Europe's most ambitious infrastructure projects realised, he had a right to be a touch sentimental as the company produced healthy-looking half-year results.

a convincing and growing market share.

On the lucrative Dover/Folkestone-Calais route it claims to be setting off a costly and concerted push by the ferry companies and has achieved a 45 per cent share of the car market with its Le Shuttle service. What Sir Alastair and co-chairman Patrick Ponsolle called "our growing mastery of our transport system" has led to spectacular increases in all types of traffic volume.

Revenues were up from £105 million for the first half of last year to £224 million this time, with the promise that the group is on course to increase 1995's full-year revenues by some 50 per cent to more than £450 million. Its operating losses shrank by £33 million to £373 million. Delays may be a thing of the past for passengers, but

the shareholders and banks still need to be patient.

The company was not being very forthcoming about the eventual shape of the debt settlement.

But the co-chairmen left shareholders in little doubt that the deal would involve sacrifices. In a joint letter, they said it would be "a number of years" before shareholders or banks saw returns approximating those originally anticipated. "Everyone has to accept certain sacrifices."

Later, Sir Alastair declined to say whether banks would end up owning more than half of Eurotunnel but insisted the French shareholders would not accept "something that wipes them out". He added: "It isn't going to be an Anglo-Saxon-creditor-takes-all deal."

But shareholders must real-



PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Gates puts dent in Murdoch vanity

Pauline Springett

RUPERT MURDOCH is unlikely to lose much sleep, but the media tycoon has been toppled from the top spot in Vanity Fair's annual list of leaders of the "information age".

Microsoft's Bill Gates is now king of Vanity Fair's glossy castle, thanks to the expansion of his business empire in the past year.

However, apparently mindful of the future that can be triggered by lists of the rich and famous, the US up-market, style magazine refrains from ranking the top 50 in terms of wealth.

Publicity for the list, which is contained in the magazine's October issue, to be published tomorrow, states that the chosen 50 are "ranked by power, influence, and billions, together with their X factor (a mixture of leadership, charisma, and style)". Clear? Vanity Fair appears to



Murdoch... usurped in Vanity Fair rankings by Gates

Until now, however, the emerging markets nations have had real difficulty in making it to the top table. The efforts to redistribute quotas, the equivalent of shares, to newcomers has stalled. Germany continues to block the sale of IMF gold to support debt forgiveness for the poorest countries.

And while the richer countries are willing to allow the newly emerging surplus nations, like Singapore, to join their emergency funding facility, they still continue to balk at allowing the newcomers to join in discussions of broader issues, such as credit risk in the banking system.

Given the inherent conservatism of the BIS, which is best known for developing rules designed to underpin the safety of bank balance sheets, it is perhaps the last place most people would have looked for reform. In fact, it seemed particularly impossible at the BIS, which has been the bastion of the old-style European economic order.

Quietly, however, its general manager, Andrew Crockett, has been working behind the scenes to widen the franchise. He has changed the nature of BIS monthly meetings, to give a wider group of central bankers the chance to air their views. Now he has been successful in winning places for them on the BIS board.

The new intake will include the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the People's Bank of China, Banco Central do Brasil, Reserve Bank of India, Banco de Mexico, the Russian central bank, and the Saudi Arabian and Singapore monetary authorities.

As a result, the newcomers will now be able to directly influence the views of the G10 leading industrial countries. Moreover, by drawing countries like Singapore into the net, it should be easier to ensure their co-operation in future banking crises — should, for instance, another Barings occur.

Membership of the BIS will bring with it status but also greater global responsibilities. The BIS — set up in the wake of the first world war as a payments organisation for German reparations — has,

responded to investor discontent by signalling a withdrawal from bulk shipping. And anyone ready to lend an ear would have known he had been trying (on and off for years as it turns out) to secure a merger which would get the poorly performing container shipping business off P&O's books.

City short-termists saw nothing but foot-dragging. P&O was sclerotic, ripe for break-up with someone else at the helm, it was said. But it now emerges that delay had paid off — the container ship operation has been given a sporting chance by being put into a venture big enough to top the world rankings, in a business where size is a crucial factor of success.

Shares leapt joyously at the latest sign that Sterling's deal-making prowess has not deserted him. And, despite a fierce nationalism, the P&O boss yesterday talked tough in terms of transferring shares off the British register if it proved more cost effective to fly the Dutch flag.

There is little doubt that Sterling has spent too heavily on a shipping business which defied decent returns and he has presided over the dissipation of assets to the system operated by the airlines and ferries.

But his critics in the City are now doing a U-turn, as they rush to "discover" new potential in the P&O shares. So far, the group's major shareholders, who backed him when others would have handed him his sword, have been vindicated.

Chunnel bonus

FINANCIALLY Eurotunnel has been a disaster for the shareholders who believed the company's stock marketing campaign and the bankers who backed the project and have declared a debt moratorium.

Which ever way the half-year losses of £371.7 million are cut, the project cannot be considered a commercial success. Even now, the marketing and ticketing end of the operation is primitive compared to the systems operated by the airlines and ferries.

Yet despite this mess, and the defensive bluster in which the retiring chairman Sir Alastair Morton specialises, one cannot be too negative. He brought to fruition one of the world's greatest engineering projects, permanently linking Britain to Europe, EMU or not. Perhaps such achievements should not be counted financially.

Sainsbury scrubs 'green' cleaners off shopping list

Roger Cowe

SAINSBURY yesterday dealt another blow to a leading producer of "environment friendly" cleaning products by claiming its goods were no greener than rivals' lines.

The supermarket group says, in its first environmental report, it has decided to scrap some Greenware products because their environmental performance is no longer any better than conventional products.

The move follows criticism of suppliers by the National Consumer Council earlier this year, which said shoppers were confused by environmental claims.

Sainsbury accepts the NCC charges and urges the Government to act on product environmental claims.

In his introduction to the

report, chairman David Sainsbury said: "We issue this first Environmental Report in the knowledge that, although much work has been done, much is still required. "We see this report not as a public demonstration of our achievements, but as an announcement of the issues that we as a company intend to address."

Environmentalist Jonathon Porritt said in his foreword that Sainsbury's targets were not tough enough.

Welcoming the report, he pointed out: "The targets set by Sainsbury are not exactly breathtaking — the hoped-for efficiency gains in its HGV fleet, for instance, will clearly not be sufficient."

Sainsbury says it is working out what "sustainable development" means for its business, but that is unlikely to lead to acceptance of environmentalists' criticisms.

Tunnel traffic

	August 1995	August 1996
Le Shuttle, tourists	145,881	304,032
Le Shuttle, freight (trucks)	36,617	46,045
No. of Eurostar passengers	279,449	566,247
No. of rail freight tonnes	90,131	134,774

* excluding coaches

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 1.89	France 7.8925	Italy 2.315	Singapore 2.148
Austria 15.28	Germany 2.28	Japan 0.5415	South Africa 8.83
Belgium 46.45	Greece 363.25	Netherlands 2.535	Spain 190.5
Canada 2.0925	Hong Kong 11.76	New Zealand 2.185	Sweden 10.24
Cyprus 0.696	India 55.73	Norway 9.75	Switzerland 1.835
Denmark 0.935	Ireland 0.935	Portugal 226.5	Turkey 10.950
Finland 6.96	Israel 4.82	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.525

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Watchdog suffers the indignity of being the biter bitten, writes **Nicholas Bannister**

Rebuke stings BT's sentinel

LUKE March felt he had been slapped in the face when Ofel used its regulatory powers last week to order British Telecom to stop misleading customers about its rivals.

Mr March, a 45-year-old lawyer who became BT's first compliance director four months ago, thought the problem had been solved and that Ofel was satisfied with the outcome.

"We concluded our discussions with Ofel two days before the order was made," he said. "The last thing I did was to ask whether they were satisfied with what we had done. They said we had done everything they wanted us to do. Then two days later we got the order."

"In it the director-general said that one of reasons he had made the order was that further contraventions may occur. That really stuck in my gut."

The incident stemmed from a Consumers' Association report which claimed that about 60 per cent of taped interviews with BT staff contained misleading information.

"When we became aware of the allegations we carried out an investigation, found that there was a problem and arranged for all calls about rivals to be referred to a unit specially trained to handle them," Mr March said. All this was done before Ofel struck.

He admits, however, that the jury at Ofel is probably still out over his ability to fulfil his brief.

He defines his role as seeing that BT's 130,000 employees comply with telecom and fair-trading regulations, with the group's licence conditions and "with anything that comes out of Ofel".

For this daunting task he has a team of four, including his secretary. But in practice he is able to draw upon the resources of the group's far larger legal, regulatory affairs and audit departments.

He has no illusions about the task ahead. "In the past BT just did what it wanted to do, and sod the customer," he said, although loyally adding that it had become much more customer-oriented in the past three years.

The majority of the group's employees had worked for it



Laying down the law... Luke March preaches the competitive advantages of compliance

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

when there was no competition and were not used to having to take competition issues into account. It is a culture which he — and Don Cruickshank, the director-general of Ofel — want to change.

Since his arrival, all line

managers have been made responsible for ensuring compliance. "This is new for BT," he said. "Line accountability for compliance had not been promulgated strongly, it had just been assumed."

Mr March's message to staff

is that BT can gain a competitive advantage by being seen publicly to comply fully with regulatory standards.

He believes the misleading information uncovered by the Consumers' Association steamed from over-enthusiastic staff trying to deal with things for which they had not been trained, although he acknowledges that the huge job losses at BT in recent years have put extra pressure on the remaining employees.

Another initiative under way is to set up more robust controls for vetting all advertisements and mail shots. "We were not maximising the expertise we had here," he said.

In addition, all staff have been sent a leaflet outlining BT's "competitive market principles", which include always operating within the legal and regulatory rules, and seeking advice from colleagues at an appropriate level to achieve this.

So, what happens if he feels that something BT is doing, or planning to do, breaches those principles? "I have no powers of veto but I have enough ways of putting a spanner in the works, which would be the equivalent of a veto," he said.

The biggest challenge is interpreting the new catch-all

clause outlawing anti-competitive behaviour, which Mr Cruickshank has insisted on inserting in BT's licence in return for relaxing price controls.

Mr March said that in the financial services industry from which he came — he was company secretary and compliance officer of the TSB Group — there would be detailed rules and regulations. But in BT's case "there ain't no rule book".

Ofel has set out fair-trading guidelines but BT claims these are not detailed enough for it to be sure whether something is or is not anti-competitive.

Mr March, who was born in Utrecht — "my mother is Dutch and I was only there for three months" — retains a number of public service outside interests. For example, he is chairman of the East London and City Health Authority's audit committee and of the National Friends of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

While his powers at BT are more influential than director, he does have one heavy weapon in his armoury. He can resign. It would be a public relations disaster for the telecom group, especially because he has promised that in such a situation he would not go quietly.

Inflation is blocked at factory gate

HOPES that Britain will enjoy low inflation well into 1997 were boosted yesterday by official figures showing price growth in the manufacturing sector was flat in August.

Although factory output has begun to show signs of responding to increased high street spending, the annual rate of its price inflation fell for the eighth month in a row to 2 per cent, a two-year low, suggesting that manufacturers have been unable to cash in on increasing demand.

The producer price index, regarded as a useful guide to official inflation, would further tempt Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to cut interest rates, although they argued that he would have to risk putting them up again before the General Election.

David Coleman, economist at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said: "The figures will also strengthen his hand in pushing for another cut at his next meeting with Edite George. On September 23, but Mr Clarke is more likely to be influenced by the view that another easing could push his luck just a little too far."

The underlying measure of factory gate price inflation, which excludes food, drink, tobacco and petrol, was flat in August and the annual rate of 1.2 per cent was the lowest since 1987. The month-on-month underlying rate was flat for the fourth month in a row, and the quarterly underlying measure, regarded as the least volatile, fell to 0.2 per cent in August compared to 2.3 per cent at the start of this year.

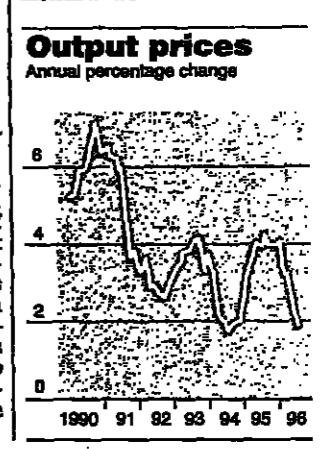
"Inflation looks set to stay this low for some time," said Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Bank, adding: "While the rate remains this low and the trend remains favourable, the market should be confident that retail inflation will remain subdued."

With output price pressure so weak, analysts said that retailers should be able to cope with consumers' enthusiasm for bargain-hunting.

The British Retail Consortium's latest sales snapshot, published today, shows that, while retailers reported an annual increase of 6.9 per cent in the like-for-like value of sales last month, the underlying rate of increase in the sector was likely to stabilise at an annual level of 6 to 6.5 per cent.

According to Office for National Statistics figures for producers' input prices, manufacturers will have little reason in the coming months to increase prices to retailers and wholesalers.

The annual, seasonally adjusted measure showed a fall of 2.2 per cent in the year to August, the third negative month in a row.



Danka duplicates itself with Kodak copiers purchase

DANKA Business Systems, the office equipment supplier, is to double in size following yesterday's announcement that it is buying the troubled photocopying business of Eastman Kodak for \$684 million (£486 million).

The deal sent Danka shares soaring 85p to close at \$66p and restored the company's reputation for acquisitive growth — it made about 50 purchases last year.

Trading in Kodak shares was more subdued, following the company's announcement that it would take a book loss of \$250 million after tax.

Under the terms of the acquisition, Danka will buy Kodak's sales, marketing and service operations, as well as its facilities management business.

Kodak will keep its manufacturing facilities, including three plants in Rochester, New York, Stuttgart in Germany and Mexico. Kodak's photocopying business has a history of making losses.

Some 10,400 Kodak employees will transfer to Danka, including 900 in the UK. The moves will almost

double Danka's work force to 22,000 people.

Danka sales of \$1.2 billion will rise to some \$3.5 billion, and its US domestic market share will double to 6 per cent.

Danka chairman Mark Vanden-Lee said the deal would give his company a strong position in the fast-growing segment of the market, high-volume photocopiers which handle large numbers of pages a minute, where Kodak is well placed.

The industry leader, Xerox Corporation, admitted the deal was a "significant" change but warned that Danka was "entering a different game with different ground rules". It added that Danka was "on Xerox turf".

For Kodak, the deal is a significant step in the company's strategy of focusing on its core business of traditional photographic imaging, especially in developing countries. The company is also giving a high priority to digital imaging.

Kodak said the retention of its manufacturing operations, and its research and development facilities would enable it to retain and develop technology for its other imaging businesses.

Commerzbank gets caught up in German tax scandals

THE epidemic of tax evasion scandals plaguing Germany's banks and industrialists spread yesterday to the upper reaches of Commerzbank, following the disclosure that its chairman and three other senior figures are being investigated for alleged financial misdemeanours.

This follows on the heels of the biggest tax fraud inquiry so far, which began last week when 800 investigators raided the Düsseldorf headquarters of West-LB, the country's third biggest bank, seeking evidence of its alleged role in aiding and abetting tax evasion by transferring clients' accounts abroad.

Frankfurt prosecutors said yesterday that Commerzbank chairman Martin Kohlhauser, predecessor Walter Seipp, the head of the tax department Wolfgang Hoenig, and another board member Kurt Hochhauser, were being investigated for their alleged role in the bank's underpayment of taxes between 1984 and 1988.

Commerzbank, the fourth biggest commercial bank in

Germany, hotly contests the charges and is fighting to regain some of the DM300 million (£130 million) in back taxes it paid earlier this year. "We believe all these charges will be proven untrue," said Peter Pleitsch, Commerzbank spokesman. He added that Mr Kohlhauser had been targeted because he signed the tax returns.

Hans-Olaf Henkel, head of the national industrialists' association, is another in a succession of high-profile names whose affairs are being investigated.

Meanwhile, the high street banks are at the centre of a row with the authorities over their part in providing foreign banking, mainly in Luxembourg, for clients attempting to avoid paying tax on savings.

About 17,000 separate investigations into tax fraud are under way and some 50 banks have been raided in recent months.

The tax fraud crackdown is believed to have been ordered by finance minister Theo Waigel, with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's support, not least because of the parlous state of the country's public finances.



You're used to successful meetings. So are we.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

News in brief

Panic selling hits troubled Olivetti

A WAVE of panic selling yesterday hit Olivetti, Italy's troubled computer and office equipment group, driving its share price down to an historic low. Investors, faced with a loss of more than half the value of their stakes in the firm since the beginning of the year, raced to hunk out. Shares were suspended several times and the price fell 21.9 per cent at one point, to an all-time low of \$90 lire, plunging through a specially widened 20 per cent fluctuation limit. It closed 19.5 per cent down at \$93 lire.

This latest blow came as Francesco Cairo, the new chief executive, flew to London to try to reassure increasingly worried clients that the firm, built up by Carlo De Benedetti, had a future. Olivetti was rocked last week, first by Mr De Benedetti's resignation as chairman, and then by that of chief operating officer Renzo Francesconi, who alleged that the firm's stated first-half losses of 460 billion lire (£151 million) did not give a true financial picture. Mr Cairo said: "The damage has been enormous but Olivetti's potential is even bigger."

But Italian analysts were unconvinced. "The lack of any kind of transparency at Olivetti, the rumours that surface and are denied, and the lack of faith in the accounts are being reflected in the shares," said Giovanni Picchi, who oversees 700 billion lire at Cofigest in Milan.

Trading in the shares was halted last week as the company prepared a statement to answer Mr Francesconi's accusations. Conso, the Italian house watchdog, said it was continuing its investigation of the company. — *John Glover in Milan*

BIS admits nine new banks

THE Bank for International Settlements, set up in Switzerland in 1930 to process German reparations from the first world war, yesterday approved membership for monetary authorities in China, Russia, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

BIS president Wim Duisenberg said the nine will acquire shares and become full members by next March. They will join the 33 members concentrated in the western industrial states, eastern Europe and former British colonies. — *Bloomberg*

Mercury funds rise to £2bn

MERCURY One-3-One, the mobile phone company, said yesterday that it can now draw on £2 billion of funds — an increase of 83 per cent since April — to boost its mobile phone network. It will use the extra capital, which has come from banks and shareholders, to help achieve its aim of having a 20 per cent market share by the end of the century. — *Pauline Spryngett*

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Tennis

Pistol Pete fires only a minority

Stephen Bierley on fears of a decline in the United States

WHEN it rains at the US Open they throw in the towel. The mighty American nation has found no better way of dealing with a saturated hard court at Flushing Meadows than sending 30 or so men and women on their knees to dry the surface with white cloths.

Perhaps, better than anything, the sight reflects the true status of the sport in the United States: a long, long way behind American football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey. A minority sport.

The comfort for American fans and the US Tennis Association has been the seemingly unending conveyor belt of successful players, even if the women have had to rely in recent years on two European imports, Martina Navratilova and Monica Seles.

What worries Americans now is the seemingly total lack of gifted youngsters moving up through the junior ranks, particularly on the men's side. In 1981 the US had 55 women in the top 100 and 39 men. A decade later the women's figure had dropped to 25 and the men to 17. And the decline is continuing.

Pete Sampras, who on Sunday won his fourth US Open title after a massive storm had halted play for more than two hours, belongs to a gifted generation of American players which includes Andre Agassi, Todd Martin and MaliVal Washington.

But behind this group the ranks are thin and there is a growing complaint from outside the USA that the nation's governing body is not looking for youngsters in the right places. It continues to search in tennis-friendly areas rather than scouring the inner cities for talent.

There are vested interests at work here, notably Nick Bollettieri and his Florida-based training camp. But he opens his doors to all who can afford it, and the youngsters flooding in include some of the closest of friends: Tim Lullison, who died of brain cancer this year.

can tennis, and as this continues the home sponsors will inevitably pull out.

This year has been a particularly bad one for the US with American players winning only two of the eight Grand Slam singles titles — Seles in Australia and now Sampras. In this country of winners such lack of success is not taken philosophically. The women's game has some 60 tournaments in 25 countries with players from 70 nations, and crowds that grow in good for the game. Not in America it ain't.

Even when Sampras wins, the public and the media are less than impressed. The Stadium court, staging its last US Open final before the move to a new stadium adjacent to the old one, was virtually full for the women's final but, by the time the men began, a good third had gone home, too impatient to wait until the rain stopped. And the remainder watched the match in less than rapture. Nobody, or so it seems, appreciates Pistol Pete unless he is throwing up and staggering about; more exercise is not enough.

This should possibly serve as a warning to Tim Henman who, after reaching the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, again demonstrated his burgeoning authority by reaching the first round, as he had the last 16 here before falling to Stefan Edberg, playing in his final Grand Slam.

Henman plays similarly to Sampras and in public like- wise struggles to convey his emotions. Sampras is fortunate that he has Agassi as a foil; the Briton has nobody, and this is bound to put great pressure on him during the next couple of formative years.

Sampras is not a great US Open champion. The outstanding men's match was the quarter-final between Sampras and Spain's Alex Corretja, while on the women's side the continued emergence of Martina Hingis was extremely heartening.

In the end the tides for Steffi Graf and Sampras could be seen as triumphs over adversity. Graf won while her father Peter began his trial for tax evasion in Mannheim; Sampras triumphed on what would have been the 45th birthday of his coach, the closest of friends Tim Lullison, who died of brain cancer this year.



Anorak weather... a hardy few brave the elements at the West Hants club's first pro men's event for 13 years PHIL YEOMANS

Sapsford delivers early

David Irvine at Bournemouth

TOURNAMENT referees get some odd requests. Danny Sapsford asked Alan Mills for an early start tomorrow here at the Bournemouth International, assuming he survived the first round, as he had an antenatal clinic to attend with his wife.

He may now have more pressing commitments; yesterday he beat Ignacio Truyol 6-3, 6-4 and came off court to find that his Japanese wife, Yuki, had gone into labour, and late yesterday his coach had had a baby daughter.

Before going home to Weybridge, Sapsford gave a

focused clay-court display that had too much variety for Truyol, a Spaniard ranked 73 places above him.

David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain, was delighted with the 27-year-old's form. Now that Jeremy Bates has retired, Sapsford is the only player available who has won a cup singles on clay.

A run of victories could see Britain climbing back into the senior European zone at Egypt's expense on Wimbledon's No. 1 court later this month, but the team would then go into a group where clay-court matches would be the norm away from home.

Beecher, who lost 6-3, 6-2 yesterday to Sweden's Patrik Fredriksson, and the 18-year-old Martin Lee, who lost by the same score to the experienced Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina.

Truyol lacked the weight of shot to put the nimble Sapsford away and often conceded the longer rallies with wayward forehands. In the final set he was also repeatedly caught by clever drop-shots.

Sapsford was unfortunate on his first match point when Truyol's return clipped the net and looped over his racket, and then he was broken, but he served out for victory at the second attempt on 11-10. The conditions were not easy but the chill wind was nothing compared with the

snow that forced the final indoors when the last men's event was played at the West Hants club in 1983. The winner then was Jose Higueras and this year his fellow Spaniards Alberto Costa, Felix Mantilla and Sergi Bruguera are among the top five seeds.

Today all eight seeds play, with Britain's Greg Rusedatski, the No. 6, facing Portugal's Joao Cunha-Silva. Luke Milligan, who reached the last 32 at Wimbledon, plays the second seed Mantilla.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

SPORTS NEWS 13

Racing

Backers settle on Dushyantor in open Leger

REFLECTING the open nature of the race, Saturday's Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster looks set to be fought out in the biggest field since Touching Wood beat 14 rivals in 1982.

Fourteen stood their ground at yesterday's acceptance stage and riding plans have been finalised for all but one of the runners — Chief Contender, who will be joined by stable-mates Heron Island and Desert Boy in the final Classic of the season.

Peter Chapple-Hyam, their trainer, has booked three times Leger-winning rider Willie Carson for Desert Boy, who is a 66-1 shot. John Reid partners the stable's first choice, Heron Island.

Dushyantor seems likely to start clear favourite after working well at Newmarket over the weekend. He was clipped to 100-30 from 7-2 by Hill's yesterday, and is 3-1 market leader with Ladbroke's.

I gather Pat Eddery, due to ride Dushyantor, was impressed by Samraan when he won the John Dunlop-trained colt at Salisbury last week.

John Carroll teams up with Samraan, a 50-1 chance, on Saturday. Reported 'absolute-ly fine' at his Arundel stable yesterday, Samraan travels to Doncaster, with St Mawes, who advertised his Leger chance with a four success in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood.

Granted good ground, the John Gosden stable anticipates a bold run from Shantou, who is preferred by Frankie Detorri to the Godolphin pair.

Sharaf Kabeer and Pricket. It took Shantou a while to recover from his hard race in the Derby Hawk, but he got back to winning form at Woburn, and is not considered to be ungen-uine as has been suggested in some quarters.

Gosden has endured a season he will chiefly want to forget but there are several Stanley House horses to look out for when they encounter good ground.

Three for the notebook this autumn are Maiden Castle, Decoyed Hero and Inquistor, while anyone who saw the manner in which King Sound shaped on his debut behind Falak at Kempton last Friday will wish to keep a close eye on this highly promising two-year-old.

Gosden sends out three un-raced juveniles today, the best of which might be Desert Track in the Remptone Maiden Stakes at Leicester.

The betting will be informative here, particularly with regard to the Godolphin runner, Stunbeam, Danse (4.15). He was strongly fancied on his intended debut at Newmarket in June, but had to be withdrawn after playing up in the starting stalls.

More tangible claims are held by Hawkling (5.1), in the Stag Apprentices Handicap, a race David Morley's gelding won off a similar mark last year. With the talented Fergal Lynch aboard, Hawkling should go close again.

At Lingfield, Michael Stoute's higher-discounting filly Really A Dream (5.00) could make a mockery of her lowly rating in the Blindfold Heath Handicap if the first-time blinkers have the desired effect.

Southwell passes its medical

SOUTHWELL, the course where Richard Davis, the 21-year-old jump jockey, suffered fatal injuries in a fall over the chasing course in July, was given an stringent safety examination yesterday and pronounced A1.

Last week Dr Michael Turner threatened to resign as chief medical officer to the Jockey Club after expressing misgivings over the qualifications of ambulance crew members. Yesterday Turner arrived at the course two hours before the start of their all-

weather Flat meeting when he spent almost an hour inspecting various aspects of safety cover.

He was accompanied by two leading medical figures, Dr Richard Glover and Ian Rosa, as well as Tony Goodweh, director of racecourse services.

Goodweh reported satisfaction at the course's arrangements. "Following Dr Turner's inspection, Southwell complies fully with Jockey Club instructions and we are very satisfied with the course's level of medical care," he said.

Leicester with guide to recent form

Table of Leicester race results and form guides. Includes race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and trainers. Example: 2.15 Mistletoe, 2.45 Golden Sceptre, 3.15 Our Shadow (sh).

Leicestershire Maiden Stakes 1m 20.04.91

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Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring a phone number 0930 1684 and a list of race results for Leicester, Lingfield, and Irish racing.

Soccer

Premiership: Blackburn Rovers 1, Derby County 2

Rocky Rovers fall to flyer by Flynn

David Hopps

AFTER Howard Wilkinson's departure from Leeds United, what price Ray Rford at Blackburn Rovers? Impatience with failure in the Premiership has never been greater than at Ewood Park last night as an 85th-minute goal from Derby's substitute Sean Flynn left them second from bottom without a win all season.

Kenna's run towards his own goal from close to the left goal-line started things off nicely and his mis-hit clearance across his own area completed the job in extraordinary fashion. Blackburn's confusion was immediate. Chris and Darryl Powell played a neat one-two and the former's lob over Flowers was headed off the line by Kenna with Hendry in close support. Williams then forced the ball in as Kenna made another desperate attempt to atone for his error, but his clearance came from behind the goal line. The crowd gabbled its disbelief, and Hendry and Kenna were left injured and floundering in the netting like a couple of landed cod.

Derby, as their position in the bottom four indicated, were not without their own frailties and conceded an equaliser after 10 minutes when Hoult failed to hold a deep cross from the left and Fenton's cross-shot from the six-yard angle was turned in by Sutton. Hartford was banking on Sutton rediscovering his scoring touch to offset Shearer's departure, but a goalmouth scramble reduced that to a mere possibility. With Rovers' attacking options reduced through the absence of Gallacher and Warhurst, Sutton's first dividend could not have been more timely for a side which had failed to score in three of its four matches.



Out of hand... with Colin Hendry in attendance, Derby's Russell Hoult flaps at a cross and sets the ball rolling for Blackburn's equaliser

Uefa Cup first round: Arsenal v Borussia Mönchengladbach

Job pointer as Graham asks Houston's advice

Martin Thorpe

SOME things change, some stay the same. Twenty months ago the Arsenal No. 2 Stewart Houston found himself in temporary charge of Arsenal and seeking advice from the man he had just replaced, George Graham, on how best to tackle Auxerre in the Cup Winners' Cup.

I want a new challenge. "It is nice to have a pat on the back for what I've achieved since Bruce [Riech] went, but there is also mixed reaction. When I go back to being No. 2 I know that people in that position don't always get the credit they deserve. But the team going out tonight feels like my team." The two big doubts are the goalkeeper David Seaman and the defender Steve Bould, both suffering with hamstring problems. A decision on whether they play will be made this morning.

Certainly Arsenal have the experience to do well in Europe, though they have conceded five goals in their last two league games. Borussia, also an experienced side in Europe, finished fourth in the Bundesliga last season but have been slow to get back into their stride. They registered their first win in the five games played this season only last Friday.

Newcastle United v Halmstads

Part-time butcher to size up Shearer

Michael Walker

THE stereotypes will be out in force in Newcastle tonight, and not only the Viz characters parading up and down the Big Market. It is European trophy time and Newcastle United entertain the Swedish part-timers of Halmstads, who include a postman, a baker and a butcher. The last, Jesper Mattsson, will mark Alan Shearer.

he oversees the embarrassment of Blackburn in the Uefa Cup two years ago. Shearer, of course, was a Blackburn striker then and scored in the away leg, but Trelleborgs went through, and they lost in the next round only to a last-minute Lazio goal by Alan Boksic. Halmstads's acquaintance with such high-calibre players and clubs explains why Kevin Keegan yesterday played down their part-time description. "Okay, they've got a job as well."

Celtic v Hamburg

Rangers give Celtic some indirect help

Patrick Glenn

RANGERS may have done Celtic a favour in the Parkhead club's quest for a place in the second round of the Uefa Cup. By paying Hamburg £4 million for the defender Jorg Albertz, Walter Smith seems to have stripped the German club — Celtic's opponents in Glasgow tonight in the first leg of their first-round tie — of their most inspirational player.

Curbishley in frame at QPR

THE Charlton manager Alan Curbishley is the latest name being linked with the vacancy at Queens Park Rangers. But he is understood to be the club's second choice behind Terry Venables, writes Martin Thorpe.

The former England coach is expected to give Rangers his answer to the possibility of taking over after returning from a stint as a television pundit on Manchester United's European Cup trip to Juventus. If he turns down the chance of rejoining the club he managed from 1990-94, Rangers will almost certainly turn to Curbishley, though it is also understood that they have sounded out Steve Coppell, Crystal Palace's director of football.

does not have a contract in his current role as director of football at Portsmouth. Curbishley has impressed many with his ability to keep Charlton regularly in the First Division promotion hunt despite a shortage of money to spend on players. Rangers will be hoping that, given money to spend on a team, he could make that final step of winning promotion to the Premiership. Coppell has the experience of leading a club to promotion to the top flight when he took Palace up in 1989. He resigned from the club in 1993 to become head of the managers' union, but he has since returned to Selhurst Park in a back-room capacity. Rangers hope to announce their new manager this week, after the departure of Ray Wilkins seven days ago.

Aston Villa v Helsingborgs

Little's large warning

Peter White

BRIAN LITTLE will warn his players not to become involved in any confrontation with the match officials in tonight's Uefa Cup first-round meeting with Helsingborgs at Villa Park.

Both players are under threat of an FA misconduct charge which may lead to a large fine and a suspension. Little is aware that the consequences may be even more severe if his players question the decisions of the Cypriot official Loukas Loizou in the game against Helsingborgs, currently second in the Swedish First Division.

They should know that once an official has made a decision he will not change his mind. I was disappointed that two players were cautioned as a result of confronting the referee. Both should have known better. "I shall be talking to everyone before this match to ensure there is no repeat of what happened." Helsingborgs, who have the former Sheffield Wednesday defender Roland Nilsson as one of only two full-time professionals, will provide a stern test, according to the Villa manager.

Results

Soccer

Table of soccer results including FA Carling Premiership, UEFA Cup, and various league matches.

Equitation

Table of equitation results from various events.

Ice Hockey

Table of ice hockey results from various leagues.

Cricket

Table of cricket results from various matches.

Baseball

Table of baseball results from various leagues.

Swimming

Table of swimming results from various events.

Snooker

Table of snooker results from various tournaments.

Pools Forecast

Table of pool forecasts for various events.

Teamtalk: The independent news and reports service. 0891 33 77+. Includes a table of football fixtures for various teams.

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'The Guardian', 'Rugby Union', 'Robert Arms', 'Clu', 'Cricket', 'Tufn', 'Mike Selvey', 'Ramp', 'man mo', 'Ice Hockey', and 'Kingston face'.

Rugby Union

Robert Armstrong on a renewed breakaway threat over Five Nations television revenue

Clubs stick to their guns

ENGLAND'S leading clubs are sticking to their plan to break away from the Rugby Football Union on October 11, despite confirmation by the Five Nations Committee in Dublin yesterday that they would receive an income of £22.5 million over the next five years from the BSkyB television deal negotiated by their union last May.

Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) carry out their threat to go it alone they will forfeit Twickenham's cash allocation and instead attempt to set up their own long-term television deal. England, whose £97.5 million Sky deal has been acknowledged by the other unions, have agreed to an equal four-way share-out of 90 per cent of the money negotiated for all Five Nations matches. An additional five

per cent will go to the English clubs and the remaining five per cent will be distributed among the nations that finish first (2 1/2 per cent), second (1 1/4 per cent) and third (one per cent) in the championship each season. In future, France will also make a contribution from its own television revenue. However, England's re-admission to the championship — which they have now

conceded is not theirs to sell independently — has failed to mollify Epruc, whose senior officers, Donald Kerr and Kim Deshayes, have insisted that a breakaway from the RFU will take place. Yesterday Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the RFU executive committee, hardly helped his case by admonishing the millionaire club owners: "Before you insist on early returns on your investments, stop and think and in some cases learn what you've become part of."



Brittle... trenchant

The 12 Courage League One clubs are incensed by what they deem a paltry offer of £300,000 each from the RFU each season; their target is closer to £2 million each a year. Brittle's declaration that "the clubs must accept that the unions will retain the necessary controls as the governing bodies" looks certain to inflame a bitter conflict and reduce further the dwindling prospect of an 11th-hour reconciliation. The next flashpoint will almost certainly occur tomorrow week when the 43-man

England squad, which has already boycotted one scheduled training session, is due to take part in another at Bisham Abbey. The clubs' burgeoning authority with the elite players whom they have under contract will be greatly enhanced if the squad ignores yesterday's display of harmony by the unions and stays away from training a second time.

In any case, the home unions still have a great deal of negotiating to carry out with the satellite and terrestrial television companies before they can even agree a Five Nations match schedule for the 1997-98 season. According to Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the Five Nations TV Committee, "there will be a fair proportion of matches on terrestrial TV: at least 50 per cent".

Early Bath for Paul and Robinson at The Rec

HENRY PAUL and Jason Robinson make their rugby union debuts for Bath tomorrow, only three days after helping Wigan to victory in the Premiership Trophy final over St Helens.

The pair, both try-scorers on Sunday at the end of rugby league's Super League season, line up against Swansea at the Recreation Ground in the fledgling Anglo-Welsh tournament.

The New Zealander Paul, who signed a lucrative four-month contract worth about £100,000, replaces Jeremy Guscott from the side beaten by Leicester on Saturday. Robinson takes over from the England wing Jon Sleightholme. But Harlequins' opener in the competition at Cardiff was postponed yesterday. Cardiff, whose reverse against Llanelli last weekend was their third defeat in a week, have been

Cricket

Tufnell leaves tour selectors in a spin

Mike Selvey on the probable make-up of the England party for the winter tour

AS WITH choosing a menu for a Masterchef competition, the selection of a touring party is about balance, blend and putting to the best use the raw ingredients available.

This winter in Zimbabwe and New Zealand promises to be the calm before the storm that will come with next summer's Ashes series, and England need to regain the winning habit so that they can await Mark Taylor's men with some confidence.

plagued by injuries and illness to front-row players with only the prop Phil Booth fit. For safety reasons, Quins have agreed to postpone the match until October 9.

● Saracens said last night that Michael Lynagh, their new fly-half, had not dislocated his shoulder during Sunday's defeat by Wasps. The club hope the Australian, who saw a specialist earlier in the day, will be fit by the end of the month.

With Chris Lewis apparently having burned his boats with some disappointing performances in the latter part of the season and his late arrival at The Oval, the pace bowlers probably selected are Dominic Cork, Alan Mullally, Darren Gough and Andrew Caddick, although suspicion still surrounds the latter's fitness and temperament.

Ramprakash a man most worthy

David Hoppe

AFTER hastening Nasser Hussain's development into a Test batsman by awarding him last year's captaincy of the A team, England's selectors have been sorely tempted to continue the theme in Australia this autumn.

sure at such a critical stage of his career would test his mettle. The presence alongside him of Surrey's Adam Holloake, Melbourne-born and possessed of a fierce competitive edge, would be protection enough.

Robert Croft showed enough appetite and steadiness to take one spinner's slot. The choice of the second brings us to Tufnell. All the evidence points to him being the most incisive spinner in the country, and his 13 wickets last week at Old Trafford — all including that of England captain, taken in the traditional manner from around the wicket — will have emphasised his claim.

Against him is his poor touring record. Atherton is believed to be in favour of taking him and so is the coach, David Lloyd. If Tufnell was considered too high a risk, however, the choice must have come down to one of Richard Stemp, Ian Salisbury and Ashley Giles, the young Warwickshire left-armers.

Ice Hockey

Kingston face action over disciplinary record

Vic Batchelder

THE Kingston Hawks completed a miserable weekend road trip to Newcastle and Scotland with a 9-0 defeat at the hands of Ayr Scottish Eagles, which followed hard on the heels of an equally emphatic 10-0 reverse in the North-east.

disciplinary chairman, Kingston face further action over their disciplinary record. "It's probably the worst we've ever had," Dempster suggested yesterday. Only two weeks into the season and the Hawks have already accumulated 75 penalty points under the sport's totting-up procedure.

of the team's German players, Mark Woolf, in Sunday's match. A hat-trick by Craig Woodcroft ensured Manchester's progress as they swat aside the New York Giants on a sweltering afternoon at Texas Stadium. The visitors played an embarrassingly inept game, failing to show any flair as their defence managed only 93 yards in the 27-0 defeat.

American Football

Cowboys find form to stop Giants in their tracks

Mark Tran in New York

THE Dallas Cowboys regrouped after dropping their first game of the season to swat aside the New York Giants on a sweltering afternoon at Texas Stadium. The visitors played an embarrassingly inept game, failing to show any flair as their defence managed only 93 yards in the 27-0 defeat.

game. Moreover the Giants defence had to spend too much time on the field and were willing at the end of the first half in the 100F-plus heat.

Smith then got into the act, outrunning one tackler and breaking another tackle to score a five-yard touchdown. "This was a big game for us. And it was much bigger because of the way we had struggled. This was a big confidence-builder," a relieved Aikman said later.

Sailing

British skiff for Sydney

Bob Fisher

AFTER extensive trials on Lake Garda at Torbole in Italy, the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) is likely to choose one of 11 new British dinghies for the 2000 Olympic regatta in Sydney Harbour.

In March the ISAF council voted 29-1 in favour of a new class, a decision almost certain to be endorsed at its agm in Brighton in November.

Sport in brief

Cycling

France's Laurent Jalabert took another step towards a second successive Tour de Spain title by claiming the leader's yellow jersey after winning the third stage across the Castilian plains from Cuenca to Albacete.

Badminton

Snooker

John Parrott, the 1991 world champion, has criticised the sport's governing body after crashing out of the Suntory Asian Classic in Bangkok. After his 5-3 defeat by Rod Lawler in the first round of the season's opening world-ranking tournament, Parrott described the table's slow cushion as "like a pudding".

Motor Racing

Ferrari have scotched rumours by confirming that Eddie Irvine will stay as No. 2 driver to Michael Schumacher next year.



To go or not to go... Tufnell takes wickets but poses big question PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Athletics

Johnson lets Nebiolo down in Sarajevo

Duncan Mackay on a war-torn city's day to remember

THE enduring television images are of horror and massacre but yesterday, in the rebuilt Kosovo stadium here, the madness and tragedy were blocked out for a while.

teries were the first thing one saw. The sight reduced Ludmila Engquist, the Olympic 100 metres hurdles champion from Sweden, to tears. "I cannot do a lot for this city but I will do what I can," she said.

Michael Johnson, the Olympic 200m and 400m champion, had been unwilling to travel because his mother had pleaded with him not to. Another leading American had told officials he thought he would be shot.

What confronted Charles Austin, the Olympic high jump champion and one of only three American athletes willing to make the journey, was the shocking sight of the war-torn city. "I was lost for words," he said. "I had seen the pictures in the news but it was still stunning."

Rugby League

Larder calls up Critchley

Paul Fitzpatrick

KARLE HAMMOND, the St Helens loose forward who stood-off and Jason Critchley, the Keighley Cougars utility back, have been called into the Great Britain squad for the tour of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand.

crited by virtue of his consistent form over the past two months. Critchley's inclusion is a slight surprise but Larder says he was "really impressed" by his display for Wales against England in the European Championship in June.

Sailing

British skiff for Sydney

Bob Fisher

AFTER extensive trials on Lake Garda at Torbole in Italy, the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) is likely to choose one of 11 new British dinghies for the 2000 Olympic regatta in Sydney Harbour.

The Laser 5000, built in Banbury, is perhaps the best established; there are already more than 260 of them worldwide. 52 of which recently took part in a national championship. Their two crew members both hang from trapezes and there is an equalisation system which levels the power of sailors of unequal height and weight.

Sport in brief

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Equestrianism

THE Irishman Peter Charles picked up the world's richest showjumping prize of around £110,000 when he won the Du Maurier Grand Prix on La Ina in Calgary with the only double clear round.

Badminton

England's No.3 Peter Bush suffered an horrific injury at the Royal Brunel tournament when a blood vessel in his eye burst after he was hit by the shuttlecock, writes Richard Jago. Bush was temporarily blinded and may be out of action for several weeks.

Snooker

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SportsGuardian

Graham on the way back with Leeds

Ian Ross on the managerial opportunity created by Howard Wilkinson's sacking

ENGLISH football's managerial blood-letting continued yesterday with the dismissal of Howard Wilkinson by Leeds United. The former Arsenal manager George Graham will probably be named as his successor within 24 hours.

Wilkinson's eight-year spell in charge at Elland Road ended in mid-morning only five games into the Premier League season but, more significantly, less than 48 hours after Leeds suffered the indignity of a 4-0 home defeat by Manchester United.

In an effort to stabilise a club who have been drifting towards crisis for some months, Leeds are likely to appoint Graham rapidly.

"I had lost confidence in Howard; he had, perhaps, been here a little too long," said the Leeds chairman Bill Fotherby after sacking the man who had led the club to the League championship only four years ago.

Although Kenny Dalglish would be interested in returning to management only a month after standing down as director of football at Blackburn, Graham is the clear favourite. And he is anxious to repair an image tarnished by his involvement in the transfer-bug scandal and his one-year ban from football.

Although the formal announcement of Wilkinson's sacking was made by Fotherby, the decision was undoubtedly taken by the Yorkshire club's new owner, the London-based Caspian group.

The man who in essence brokered that deal was the



Graham... still ambitious

to the first sacking of a distinguished managerial career which also embraced productive spells at Notts County and Sheffield Wednesday.

Nevertheless he said: "When I arrived here I talked about a 10-year plan, and when I look at the young players at this club I can still see that plan coming to fruition. Even a blind man could see that this club is in better shape now. We are an established Premiership force with great potential and a terrific stadium."

He conceded that the disenchantment of a small but vociferous section of the Leeds support had contributed to his downfall.

"I am disappointed, very sad and very shocked," he said, "but my board has made a decision in good faith and I must live with it."

Wilkinson moved to Elland Road from Hillsborough in October 1988, shortly after Leeds had finally severed ties with the Don Revie era by sacking Billy Bremner.

Only six months after Leeds won the championship, Wilkinson's relationship with an expectant public began to show signs of strain.

The sale of Eric Cantona to Manchester United for only £1.2 million was not well received and, after three more seasons of perceptible stagnation, unrest reached its peak last April when Leeds were defeated 3-0 by Aston Villa in the Coca-Cup final.

Yesterday's developments will no doubt have been noted across the Pennines at Maine Road. But, for the moment, said Wilkinson, "I am going to have a rest. I will be back, but not for a while."

Wilkinson is the sixth managerial casualty of the English season.

SPORT RETURNS TO SARAJEVO



War ruins... Morocco's Hicham El Guerrondj, who won the 1500m yesterday from Daniel Komen of Kenya, examines Sarajevo's wrecked library

Image-maker puts a new spin on Hill



Richard Williams

NO, Mary Spillane said, I'm just here as a fan, that's all.

She was protesting too much. In her short, cornflower-blue linen dress, cardinal-red cashmere cardigan, shiny gold pumps, thick black wraparound sunglasses and a quantity of jewellery, Mary Spillane certainly blended into the human zoo of the Monza paddock last weekend.

But her presence, as a member of Damon Hill's inner circle, was one of the most interesting elements of the whole Italian Grand Prix meeting.

Mary Spillane is what is known as an image consultant. A 46-year-old American who wrote speeches for Ronald Reagan before coming to Britain at the beginning of the Eighties, she advises business people and politicians — including MPs and candidates of all three major parties — on how to present themselves.

And now her clients include Damon Hill.

"Machiavelli would be at home here," she observed as we stood in the sun, watching the paddock people exchanging greetings and gossip. "It's so wonderful to see the energy of it all, the chaos, the politics and machinations."

Like those of a doctor or a psychiatrist, her relationships with individual clients are confidential. She is not keen to talk about her work with Hill, refusing even to say how long she has been on the payroll (although she did say, when talking about the world of Formula One, that "the whole of the last year has been a learning curve for me").

But she is part of a group of people surrounding Hill — his lawyer and manager, Michael Breen; his physiotherapist, Erwin Goller; his aide-de-camp, Jamie McCallum; his friend, the photographer Jon Nicholson; and an occasional media advisor, the sports writer Michael Calvin — who have been playing their parts in maintaining the driver's psychological equilibrium, and whose presence as a team within a team has unquestionably irritated Frank Williams.

She is a true creature of the modern world in that her professional concern is not with essence but with perception. "I'm called in to give people an

outside assessment of how they present themselves and what they might do to improve," she told me.

"First of all I critique their television performances, how they're written up, whether they're analysed as being strong, being in charge, being committed, doing the right thing. Or, if they're in deep shit, what they need to do to turn that around."

"What does she change?"

"It's variable. There's no one formula for it. It can be how they look, how they're sound, it can be whether or not they speak in certain contexts or whether they leave other people to do it for them."

Politicians are one thing. But don't we want sports people to be themselves?"

"Absolutely."

So does she help them to be more themselves, or less?

"More themselves, but in a way that it works through visual media and the press. Some people say, 'Tell me what to do, tell me what to say.' That's done day in and day out with a lot of public figures, business leaders, whatever. But then there is an individual character — like, say, a Damon Hill — who just won't be packaged or programmed like that, who needs to make sure that what he says is perceived effectively, but is still what he believes in and feels strongly about."

"When the individual is misunderstood because the message is unclear or the way they behave when they're delivering the message contradicts what they're trying to say. The general public has become so sophisticated at analysing how someone walks into a room, how they sit down and handle a press conference, whether they look on top of things or believe them. The public is incredibly perceptive. Not just you guys."

Austin shames the stay-aways

SPORT returned to the Kosovo stadium in Sarajevo yesterday as 50,000 spectators watched the first major competition since peace returned to the Bosnian capital.

Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, attacked the big-name athletes who stayed away.

"They have talent but no heart," he said. One with both, the Olympic high jump champion Charles Austin, said: "I feel privileged to be here."

Austin was a winner, as was John Mayock from Yorkshire, who in the 2,000 metres outpaced the world 10,000m record-holder Salah Hissou of Morocco.

Duncan Mackay, page 15

SHE'S wrong there. The public's perception is not the product of its own sophistication but is almost entirely shaped by "you guys", journalists who need to put a spin on reality in order to dramatise their stories, and have a range of skills designed to magnify minor flaws until they can no longer take the strain and an otherwise sound structure is shattered.

Off duty, Hill is the most natural and companionable of men, his straightforwardness a remarkable response to the peculiar circumstances of his upbringing. But the Hill who employs Mary Spillane is the one who turns twitchy under certain kinds of pressure. He pays her bills, so it is for him to say how effective her work has been.

"Does anyone really understand what's behind travel insurance?"

A very down to earth question.

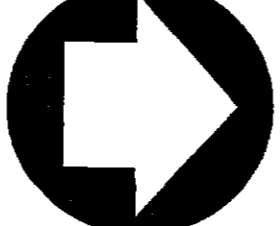
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G2 page 4

Set by Audreus

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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- Across**
- 1 That's the style! — but god, the pain (7)
 - 5 Dery little girls a promise (7)
 - 9 Two men heard and easily understood (5)
 - 10 Animal with strange aroma swallowed the pickle (9)
 - 11 Elected a scoundrel with a cry of triumph — and America couldn't care less (9)
 - 12 Two notes about the French producing fragrant resin (5)
 - 13 Disagreeable old person — excellent swimmer (5)
 - 15 No one in the country backed the journalist: heartless lady, in truth (9)
 - 18 Those who get what they deserve? (9)
 - 19 Parker gets the go-ahead on reversing (5)
 - 21 Shield from being an endless butt (5)
- Down**
- 23 Good rates in exchange for players' get-out? (5-4)
 - 25 Getting along in Old English with modern wordsmith (9)
 - 26 A little child again, is she? (5)
 - 27 Murmurs with total absorption in work (7)
 - 28 A month with nothing to drink might be in keeping (7)
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14 So give the umpire a mineral (9)

16 Incessant bore! (9)

17 Stripper taking man on river with topless distance-runner (9)

18 Not many get flummoxed? Quite the contrary (7)

20 Old HGV about to prepare for war on board ship (4-3)

22 Kanga Street for a kip? (5)

23 Misses the garbage collectors (5)

24 A rule of conduct and so on includes a greeting (5)

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